Gov't loses another case against Marcoses, cronies

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 2

7 children killed in cannon shell blast

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Seven children were killed and 10 others were wounded when a howitzer shell exploded on Tictabon Island here yesterday afternoon.

A seaweed farmer, Alup Balawi,

7 CHILDREN/ A7

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Young rebuke elders

"WE ARE children whose voices are not being heard. It is time we are taken into account!" Presidents, sheiks and kings got a dressing down from the world's young people through Gabriela Azurudy Arrieta, a 13-year-old from Bolivia.

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YOUNG/A20

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Solons want ₱3B more

New pork to come from DA and DAR

By Juliet L. Javellana

CONGRESSMEN plan to tap P3-billion more infrastructure pork barrel from other departments to resolve the quarrel over the sharing of the P34.8-billion infrastructure fund.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. yesterday proposed what he said was a "win-win formula" to the technical panel of the House appropriations and public works committees.

The formula—which Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez described as acceptable—calls for a status quo on the sharing of the P34.8-billion infrastructure fund of the Department of Public Works and Highways plus an "equalization fund" to be tapped from other departments with infrastructure budgets.

According to Pichay, additional infrastructure funds are available at the Departments of Agriculture and of Agrarian Reform.

He estimated that as much as P3 billion could be tapped from these two departments alone.

Approval of the formula is expected at a special meeting on Monday of the panel composed of 11 congressmen and Public Works Undersecretary Teodoro Encarnacion. It was Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., chair of the appropriations committee, who had called for the meeting.

Pichay said many congressmen were amenable to his formula and were eager to end the bitter deadlock.

"As long as my concerns for my district are addressed, I'll go for it," said Leyte Rep. Ted Failon. "My concern is really parochial. My concern is my

SOLONS/A20

AP

A GARDEN IN A TIME OF WAR
A Muslim woman cultivates her garden in Maluso, Basilan, as a US Navy Seabees construction mechanic Joe St. Hilaire serves as security and playmate to a local boy.

Israeli Cabinet OKs counterattack

JERUSALEM—Israel's Cabinet on Thursday flashed the green light for more military operations against "terrorist targets" after a Palestinian suicide bombing that threatened to derail new Middle East peace efforts.

Complicating the picture, a new obstacle blocked a deal to end the five-week-old armed standoff at Bethlehem's Nativity Church, traditional birthplace of Jesus.

The Cabinet decision to respond to Tuesday's suicide bombing at a pool hall outside Tel Aviv made it likely Israel would embark on a tough offensive, this time probably in the Gaza Strip, the suspected launching pad of the attack.

At least 15 people were killed as well as the Palestinian suicide bomber in the powerful blast. About 60 people were also wounded in the explosion at the packed billiard hall in Rishon Letzion.

Palestinians in Gaza braced for an Israeli armed assault after Israeli media reported that the suicide bomber was believed to have come from the Mediterranean territory.

Palestinian police in Gaza arrested 14 members of the Islamic militant group Hamas on Thursday after President Yasser Arafat, under US and Israeli pressure to curb violence, ordered measures to foil attacks on Israeli civilians.

It was believed to be the first arrests of militants by Palestinian police since March 29. Israeli forces arrested hundreds.

The Palestinian Authority condemned Tuesday's attack

ISRAELI/ A7

Prosecutor backs Lacson's 9 libel charges vs Inquirer

By Alcuin Papa

THE PROSECUTION of editors, columnists and reporters of the Philippine Daily Inquirer on nine counts of libel filed last January by Sen. Panfilo Lacson has been recommended by a Makati City prosecutor.

Of the nine counts of libel, INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo is charged with eight counts. The charges stemmed from a series of columns written by Tulfo between July 12 and 28 last year.

Tulfo wrote that Lacson "didn't hesitate to order criminals 'salvaged' (executed) if you received orders from higher-ups," that Lacson got an expensive Patek Philippe wristwatch from a kidnap victim, and that Lacson was involved in the illegal drug trade among other

PROSECUTOR/ A6

PLDT OWNERSHIP

Gov't loses another case vs Marcoses, cronies

By Volt Contreras

ITS lawyers used photocopies.

The government lost its 15-year-old bid to recover ill-gotten wealth allegedly invested by the Marcoses and their cronies in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. because it used photocopied documents to support its case.

In a 70-page decision promulgated on May 6, the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division dismissed for lack of merit an ownership dispute initiated by the Presidential Commission on Good Government against the Marcos family, the late Ramon Cojuangco, Imelda Cojuangco, and Prime Holdings Inc. over 2.4 million PLDT shares.

In a 70-page decision promulgated May 6, the anti-graft court's 4th Division said the PCGG failed to prove that the contested shares were ill-gotten and that the two Cojuangcos and PHI acquired PLDT shares as Marcos dummies.

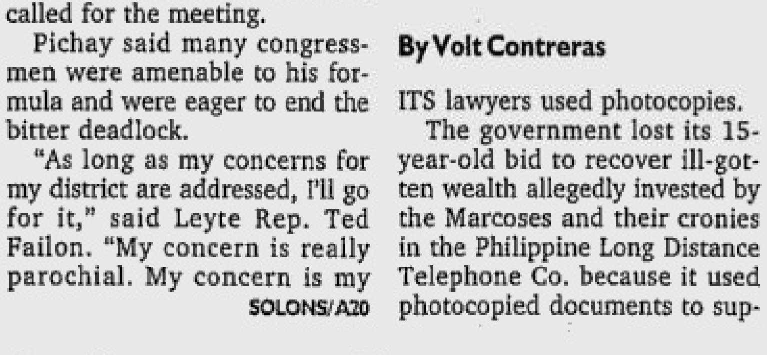
"We are therefore constrained to find that the Republic's documentary evidence, to the extent that they were mere photocopies, or are otherwise unidentified, unauthenticated, and constitutive of hearsay, may not be justifiably relied upon by this court, nor may their integrity be assumed, for purposes of establishing the facts, or for supporting the theory pursued by the Republic," the court said.

The "theory" alluded to refers to the PCGG's contention that the Marcos family had a controlling stake in the telecoms giant through the Philippine Telecommunications Invest-

GOV'T/A20

'Victory for consumers' means ₱15-B loss for Napocor

PPA breakdown of a Meralco billing



Meralco's PPA in February
P3.2341/kwh

P0.6506/kwh
Napocor's PPA charge to Meralco that President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered reduced. Documents from the Energy Regulatory Commission show that power purchased by Meralco from Napocor has been falling. Meralco's purchases from Napocor in February went down by 91 million kilowatt-hours from January's figure.

P2.5835/kwh
Meralco's own PPA

P2.0537/kwh
Meralco's own charges to cover for power purchased from its own independent power producers, as well as losses from systems inefficiency.

P0.5298/kwh
Over-recoveries in February that Meralco began charging in September last year. The ERC has ordered Meralco to stop collecting this.

Source: ERC INFOGRAPHIC: ESambo

By Ronnel W. Domingo and Andrea T. Echavez

A GAIN for consumers, a loss for the National Power Corp.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to cut Napocor's electricity charges might force the government to borrow about $300 million to cover a projected P15 billion in losses by the state-owned firm.

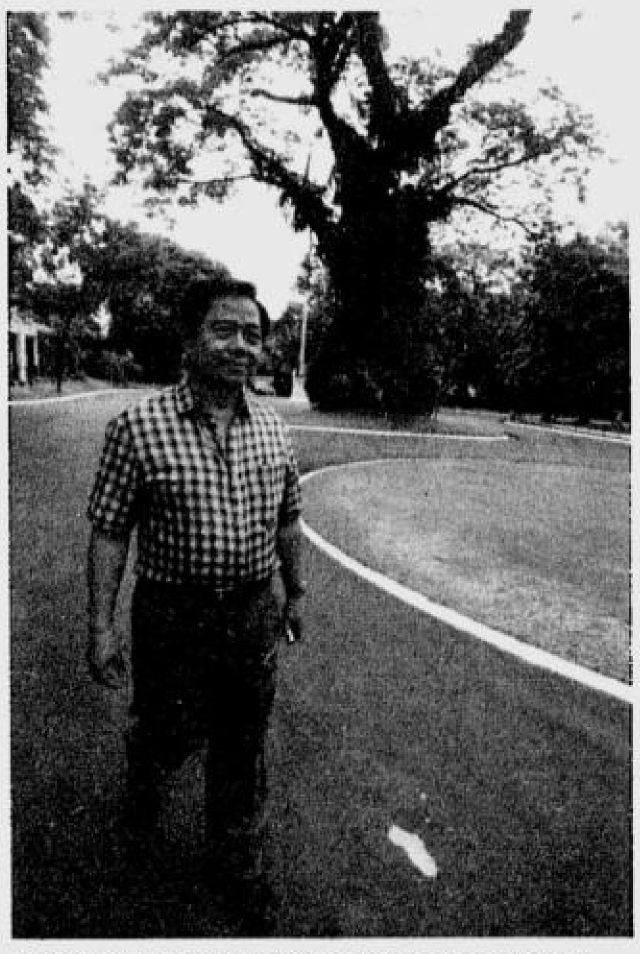
Various groups, however, hailed the President's move to slash Napocor's purchased power adjustment charge from an average of P1.25 per kilowatt-hour to a uniform P.40/kwh, saying it was "a victory for consumers."

Still, most of the groups insisted on their demand for the scrapping of the entire PPA charge. The Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Tagalunsod said "no amount of reduction would diminish the PPA's unjust nature."

Other groups warned that the relief to consumers would be negated by an impending increase in basic rates by distribution utilities, like Manila Electric Co.

The widespread clamor for the abolition

VICTORY/A20



VAL HANDUMON

FEELING at home, Roseller dela Peña at the Palace on Thursday to retrieve the Guingona letter that purportedly recommended him to replace DENR Secretary Alvarez.

Tito says letter does not exist, backs Heherson

By Carlito Pablo

THE VICE President's denial was swift and short, but his two-paragraph statement raised more questions than it answered.

"I stand by Secretary Alvarez," Vice President Teofisto Guingona said. "His mind and heart are in the right place for the good of the environment and the nation, and therefore (he) should be confirmed."

"There exists no copy on our files of the letter, dated April 2, no record that it was officially sent out, and (thus the letter) is immaterial because there exists no vacancy," he added.

The intended beneficiary of the controversial letter, however, said yesterday that he did receive Guingona's pledge to endorse him for the post of environment secretary, when he met with him sometime in the sec-

TITO/ A6

DAPAT SIGURADUHIN NANG MAPARUSAHAN ANG TUNAY NA MAY SALA !

Bomber's arrest a puzzle

THE MILITARY yesterday insisted that it had captured the mastermind of the deadly bombings in General Santos City despite police claims that Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Muslim Alghazie was able to escape a police dragnet on Tuesday.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, the Armed Forces spokesperson, said Jay-ar Jikiru, one of the four men arrested in Cotabato City on Tuesday, was in fact Abu Muslim Alghazie who had claimed responsibility for the deadly bomb attacks in General Santos City last month.

Mabanta said the military has the evidence, including voice analysis, to back its claim that Jikirun was Alghazie and the one who called radio stations in General Santos City several times, saying that the bomb attacks were in retaliation for the joint Philippine-US military operations against the Abu Sayyaf.

But he said investigators were still trying to determine if there really was a person with the name of Alghazie.

"We believe that the man using the code name Alghazie and the one calling the radio stations (claiming responsibility for the bombings) was one of those caught," he said.

The regional police chief in Zamboanga City, Senior Supt. Bartolome Baluyot, has disputed the military's assessment, saying that the real Abu Muslim Alghazie had escaped a raid on his home in Tacurong in Sultan Kudarat province last Wednesday.

To further add to the confusion, a man claiming to be the real Abu Muslim Alghazie called the dxMD radio station in General Santos City yesterday denying that he had been caught.

'Come and get us'

"The arrested suspect is not me. The military arrested innocent civilians. We are here waiting for the soldiers. They cannot get us because they are afraid. Come and get us in the mountains," the caller said.

The caller doubted the military was capable of arresting them.

"The military would not be able to penetrate our location. If they insist, I am very sure that 50 percent of them would not get out alive," he said.

Officials of the radio station, which has previously conducted interviews with Alghazie, said they believed the caller was the same person who had earlier claimed responsibility for the bombing in General Santos that claimed 15 lives.

But Southern Command spokesperson Capt. Noel Detoyato said the voice of the new caller was different from the records they had of previous Alghazie interviews.

"Anybody can call up a radio station and say he is Abu Muslim but we cannot swallow everything he says," Detoyato said.

"However, we cannot close the door to further investigation," he said.

Baluyot said the real Abu Muslim Alghazie had been identified as a certain Abdulatip Paglala who escaped a police raid on his home in Tacurong.

But Paglala's wife, Bai Hayaran Paglala, and four other people in the house were arrested and munitions were found, he said.

Baluyot said Paglala was also known as Commander Roldan of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Documents

He said the real Abu Muslim Alghazie had gone to Manila and was supposed to return to Cotabato City today.

In Cotabato City, Maj. Gen. Roy Kyamko, commander of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the documents recovered from the suspects who were arrested on Tuesday proved that one of them was Alghazie himself.

"They belonged to the ASG special operations group and their admission was corroborated by the documents we recovered from them," Kyamko said.

Among the documents seized from Jikirun was a letter allegedly signed by Abu Sayyaf chief Khadaffy Janjalani, notes pertaining to the Abu Sayyaf and still another note on the Sipadan and the Dos Palmas hostage-taking.

In his alleged letter, Janjalani had named Jikirun as the leader of the Al Harakatul Al-Islamiya, the Abu Sayyaf's official name, in Central Mindanao.

"More arrests will follow, we have found ways to neutralize them, we have pinpointed the ASG terror cells in Central Mindanao," Kyamko later told reporters.

He said the military was trying to get more evidence that would point to Jikirun as the real Alghazie. ***Reports from Martin P. Marfil and TJ Burgonio, Metro Manila, and Aquiles Z. Zonio, Anthony S. Allada, Edwin O. Fernandez and Julie s. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Gloria sidelines peace negotiator

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE GOVERNMENT'S chief negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front has been sidelined in favor of a "backchannel" negotiator.

Malacañang yesterday said Jesus Dureza, the head of the government peace panel, has to give way to Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales, who is the presidential adviser on "special concerns," recently signed on behalf of the government two agreements with the MILF that were formally announced in Malaysia Tuesday.

One calls for joint military and MILF operation against criminals hiding in so-called MILF areas. The other is on the rehabilitation of MILF communities.

Dureza had no hand in the agreements. Nor did he join President Macapagal-Arroyo in that trip.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. found nothing wrong that Dureza was bypassed in the signing of the agreements.

Afable said it was not necessary for the deals Gonzales made with his MILF counterparts during the backchannel talks to be formally approved by the peace panels.

CommAsia 2002

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Our sincerest apologies to IIR.

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DOTC chief vows to iron out kinks in Naia 3 deal

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez yesterday assured the public that he would push to revise the Philippine International Air Terminal Co.'s contract to build the Naia Terminal 3 if any of its provisions are found to be disadvantageous to the government.

"If the ongoing investigation by the congressional committees or other authoritative bodies find that existing provisions in the contract are also onerous and disadvantageous to the government, I would do everything to have them deleted from the contract," Alvarez said.

Alvarez made the statement even after economic planning Secretary Dante Canlas testified before a Senate inquiry early this week that all the amended and supplementary contracts covering the multibillion-dollar project are "legal and above-board."

Canlas was testifying before the Commission on Appointments, which continued to grill Alvarez on matters concerning the controversial Piatco deal. The main snag on Alvarez's appointment is the opposition of various groups to the construction of the Naia 3.

Alvarez earlier recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo to delete from the contract a provision affecting the operations of international airports in Luzon, especially the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark Field, Pampanga.

The Piatco management agreed to delete the provision following a request from the President.

Doy goes to full SC

By Michael Lim Ubac

FORMER Vice President Salvador "Doy" Laurel yesterday elevated to the full Supreme Court his petition seeking to stop Ombudsman Aniano Desierto from prosecuting him in connection with the Centennial Exposition in Pampanga in 1998.

In a 30-page motion for reconsideration, Laurel asked the First Division to refer his case to the full court, saying the decision of the Ombudsman's Office to indict him was "oppressive and arises from vengeful political harassment."

He said the division erred in upholding his prosecution, maintaining that as a private individual, he cannot be prosecuted by the Ombudsman.

"The petitioner is anguished that in his retirement years, a labor of love and a rallying to the call of civic duty would serve as a basis for unfounded and malicious criminal charges," said Laurel.

He then asked the First Division to reconsider its decision on April 12, which lifted the preliminary injunction it issued on Sept. 24 last year barring his prosecution with the Sandiganbayan.

But the April 12 decision paved the way for Desierto to file graft charges against Laurel in connection with the alleged bloating of the cost of the Freedom Ring of the Centennial Exposition in Pampanga from P248 million to P1.2 billion.

Laurel maintained that the Ombudsman could not investigate him. He then asked the SC to declare null and void Desierto's orders on Oct. 5, 2000 and June 13, 2002.

"The petitioner submits that the strong arm of the law should never be used to harass or inconvenience any person for reasons of political vendetta. Embarrassment and anxiety arising from baseless prosecutions by an office without jurisdiction must be avoided," said Laurel in his motion.

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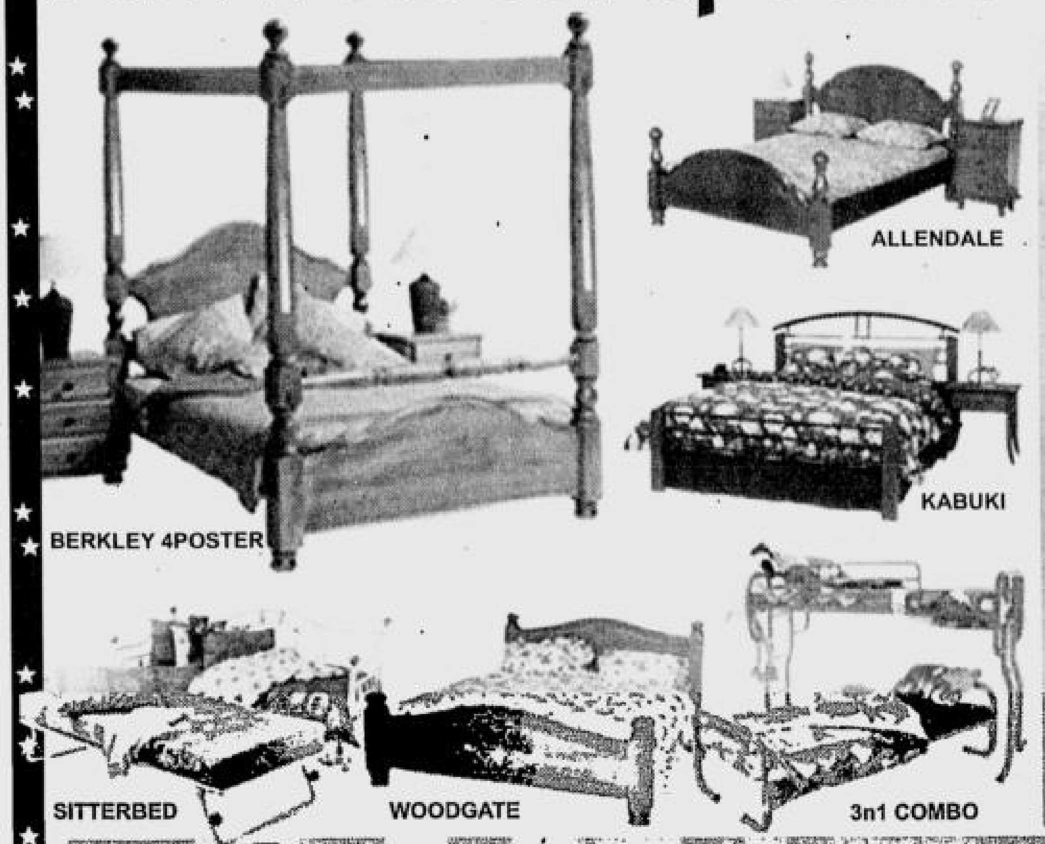

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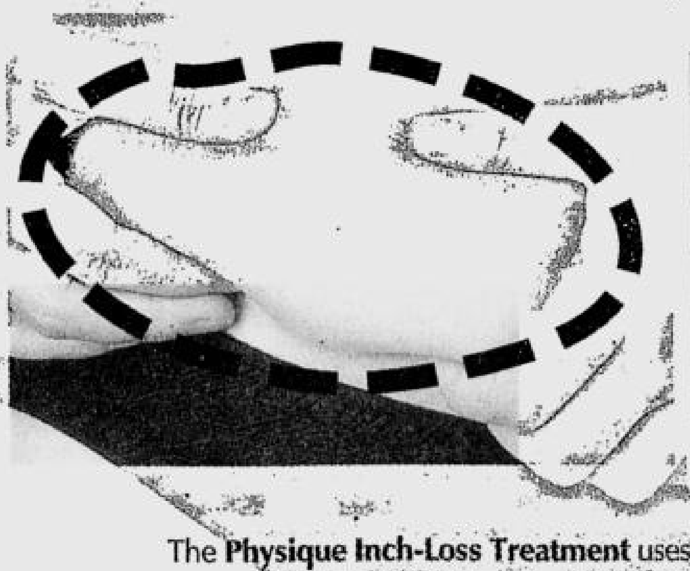

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20 senators back absentee voting debates

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWENTY senators yesterday endorsed for plenary debate the proposed absentee voting law, which would allow some 7.4 million overseas Filipino workers to vote in national elections.

In his sponsorship speech, Sen. Edgardo Angara, chair of the committee on constitutional amendments, revision of codes and laws and electoral reforms, said the measure was expected to change the course of Philippine elections.

"Let us make history today," said Angara, principal sponsor of the consolidated bill on absentee voting.

"The absentee voters will be the cleansing votes in our elections," he said.

The consolidated version was a product of 11 consultations and public hearings, seven of which were held overseas.

Senators crossed party lines in supporting the measure, which had slumbered in Congress since 1987.

Co-sponsors of the consolidated measure were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Majority Floor Leader Loren Legarda, Minority Floor Leader Aquilino Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III, Vicente Sotto III, Blas Ople, Rodolfo Biazon, Gregorio Honasan, Robert Jaworski, Juan Flavier, Francisco Pangilinan and Ramon Magsaysay.

Representatives of 14 non-governmental organizations led by the Philippine Migrant Rights Watch and the Overseas Filipino Network were in the Senate gallery as a show of support for the measure.

Salient points

The salient points of the bill were:

- All overseas Filipinos who are qualified to vote and have not renounced their Filipino citizenship can vote.
- Immigrants and green card holders can vote.
- The absentee voters can vote for president, vice president, senators and party-list representatives. They can also vote on plebiscites and referendums that cover national issues.
- Onsite counting and canvass of votes.
- Relaxed identification requirements for undocumented Filipinos.
- Strict confidentiality on the information filed by those registering as voters.
- Adequate safeguards shall be provided by the Commission on Elections to ensure the sanctity of the voting process.
- Deputization of non-governmental organizations, individuals and other organizations as election officers after a strict process of accreditation.
- Free diplomatic and consular services shall be rendered in connection with the absentee voting process.
- Involvement of NGOs in the information campaign and the drafting of the law's implementing rules and regulations.
- Longer time shall be given to Filipino seafarers to register and vote.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 10, 2002
6th Week of Easter
1st Reading: **Acts 18:9-18**
Gospel: **Jn 16:20-23**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth is in distress because her time is at hand. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of such great joy: a human being is born into the world.

You feel sorrowful now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. And no one will take your joy from you. When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you."

Commentary

Christ promises us a joy great enough to make us forget whatever we may have suffered. A joy no one can take away from us. Is such a joy possible? What if we have lost a beloved child, spouse, parent, sibling or friend, through sickness or accident? Will not our sorrow remain always, to be carried throughout our life? In such cases the one thing that may comfort us is our faith in the resurrection of the dead, that we shall see them again and our hearts will rejoice with a joy that no one can take away from us, for once died and risen they can never die again. This faith is what we long to hold with confidence. The gospel promises us that this faith will be given to us if we ask the Father in Jesus' name.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—Treachery is considered present when: (1) there is employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (2) the means or method of execution was deliberately or consciously adopted by the culprit. For treachery to be appreciated, it must be present and seen by the witness right at the inception of the attack. Where no particulars are known as to how the killing began, its perpetration with treachery cannot merely be supposed. These are absent in the case at bar. There was no showing of how the attack was commenced or that the method of execution in the commission of the crime was consciously or deliberately adopted by the malefactor. To reiterate, *alevosia* must be based on positive or conclusive proof, not mere suppositions or speculations and must be proved as clearly and as convincingly as the killing itself. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Ynares-Santiago, First Division, People v. Nicholas, G. R. No. 142044, November 23, 2001]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

A. The Judicial and Bar Council announces the opening of **two (2) positions of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court** to be vacated by:

1) Justice Jose A.R. Melo on his compulsory retirement on May 30, 2002, and
2) Justice Sabino R. de Leon, on his compulsory retirement on June 9, 2002.

The deadline for filing of applications/nominations for the above positions is on **SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002**. In case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee.

B. The Council also announces the opening of **three (3) positions of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals**, vacated by:

a. Justice Alicia L. Santos on her compulsory retirement last March 14, 2002;
b. Justice Demetrio G. Demetria, who was dismissed from the service effective 19 December 2001; and
c. one position which was not filled up by Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo from the list of nominees submitted by the Council last January 11, 2002.

The deadline for the submission of applications/recommendations for the above positions is on **SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002**. In case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee.

The deadline for the submission of applications/recommendations for the position vacated by **Justice Ramon A. Barcelona** last January 11, 2002, which was previously published, is **extended to SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002**.

C. The Council further announces the opening of the position of **Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals**, which was vacated by Justice Ma. Alicia Austria Martinez, who was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on April 9, 2002.

The deadline for the submission of applications/recommendations for the above positions is on **SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2002**. In case of recommendation, the same must bear the conformity of the recommendee.

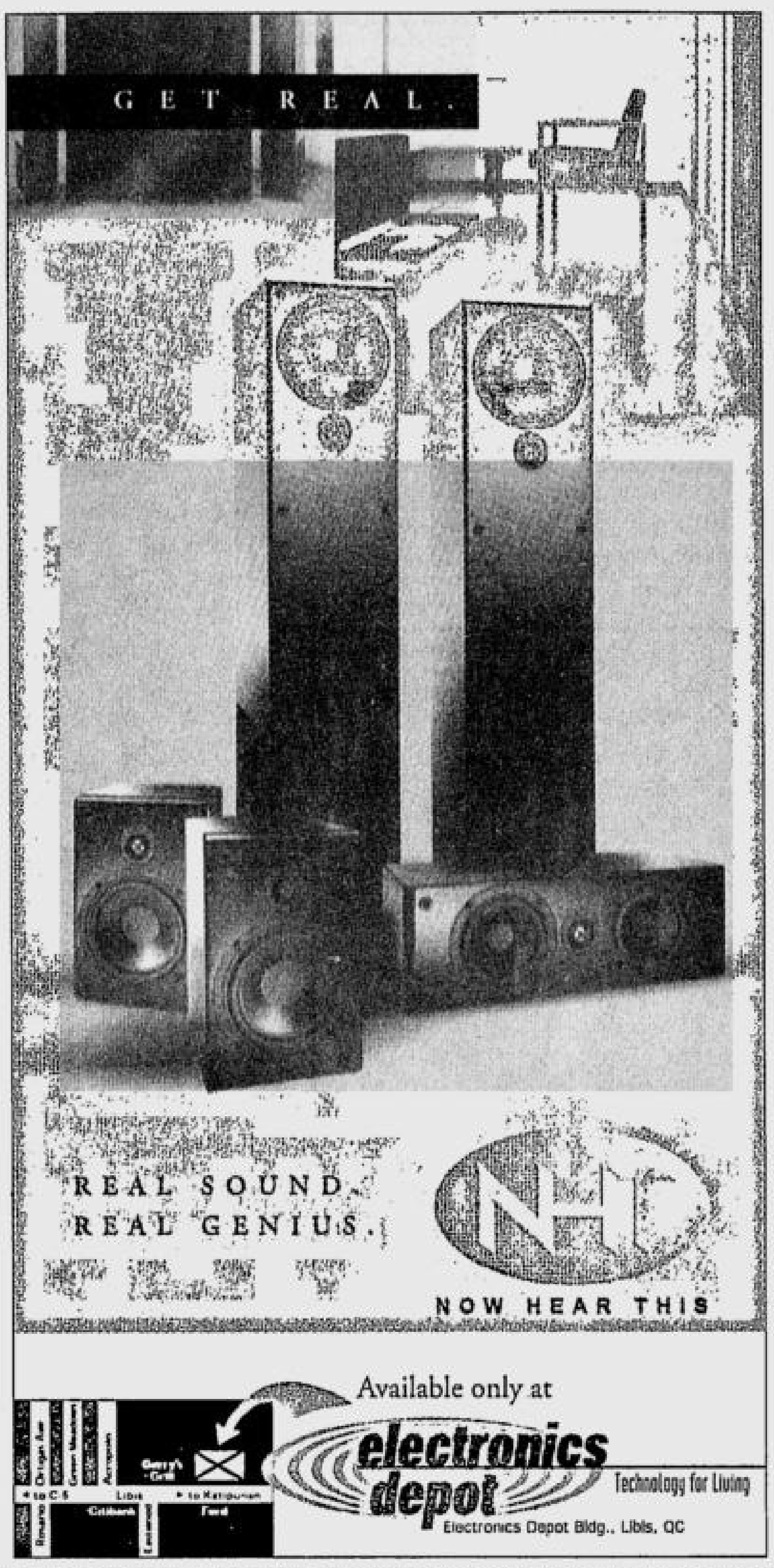
Those who will apply for the position of Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals may also apply for the position of Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals.

The applications/recommendations for the above positions must be addressed to:

The Secretariat
Judicial and Bar Council
Old Supreme Court Building
Padre Faura, Manila

May 8, 2002.

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary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IT schools chided for broken job promises

PRESIDENTIAL adviser for job creation Luis Lorenzo yesterday chided computer schools for advertising the false hope of immediate and guaranteed employment after their graduation.

Lorenzo said the information technology schools have "not been able to deliver on their promise" to have their graduates employed in reputable companies with good compensation.

He said the misleading advertisements of IT schools distract many young people who struggle through their very expensive schooling in computer schools in the hope of getting a good job as soon as they graduate.

"They have not been able to deliver because of the bloody and rigorous developments in IT, and now you have to identify the possibilities of work in the field," Lorenzo said in the launch of the job outlook study that his office and the Thames International Business School will conduct this month.

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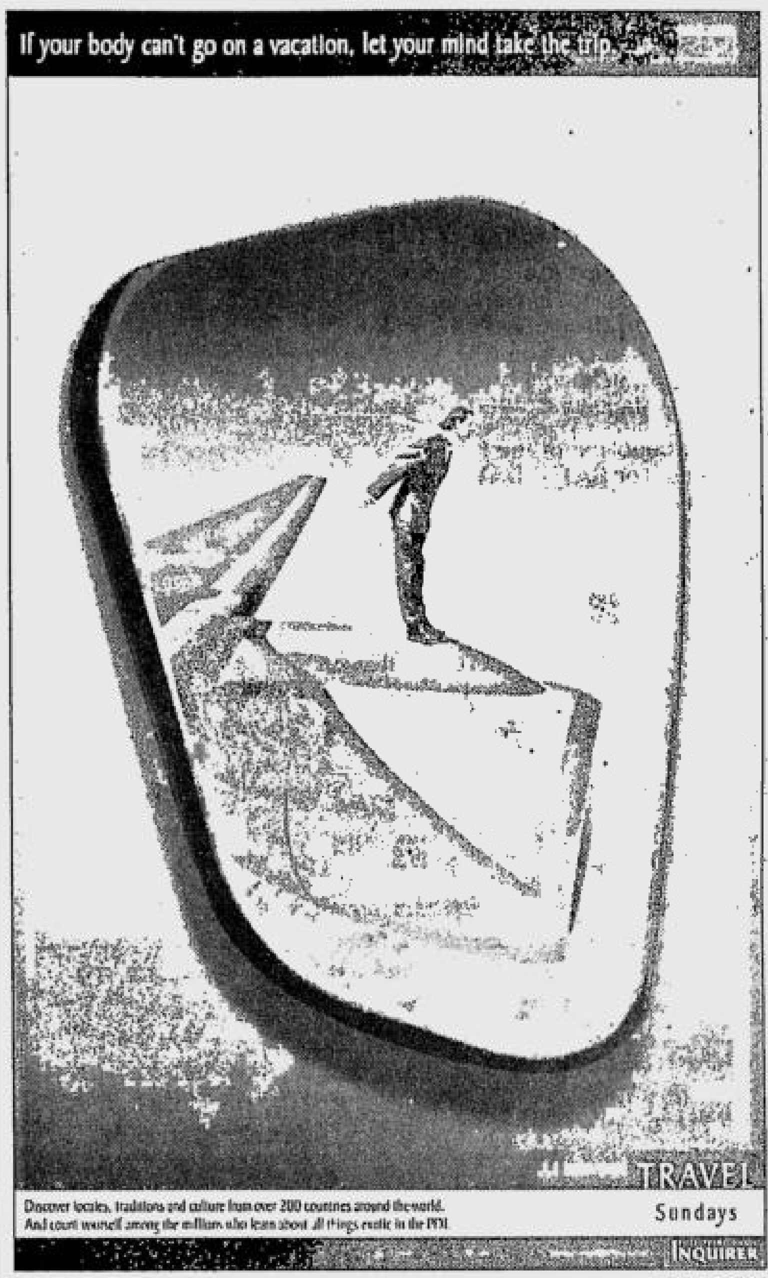

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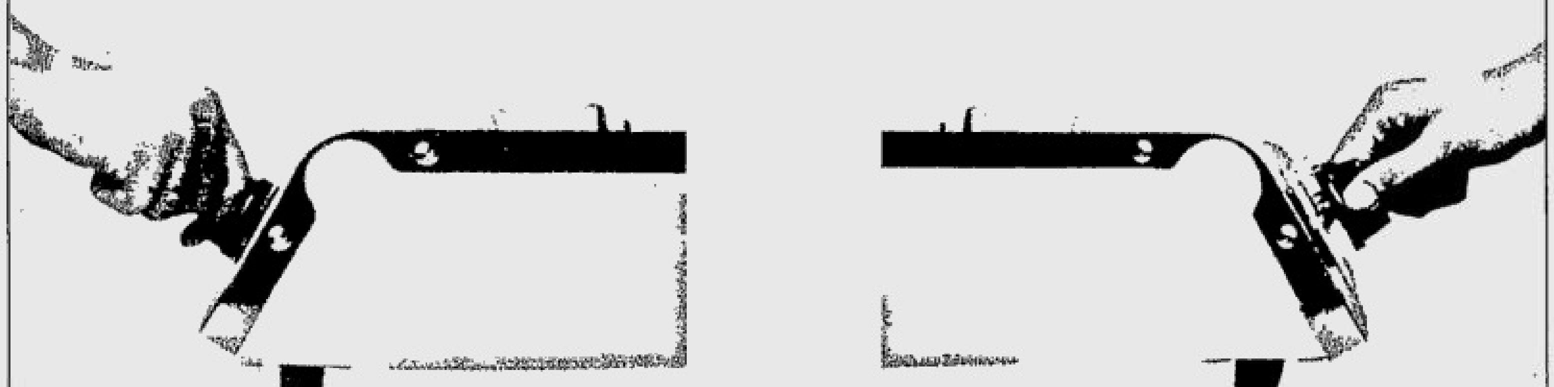

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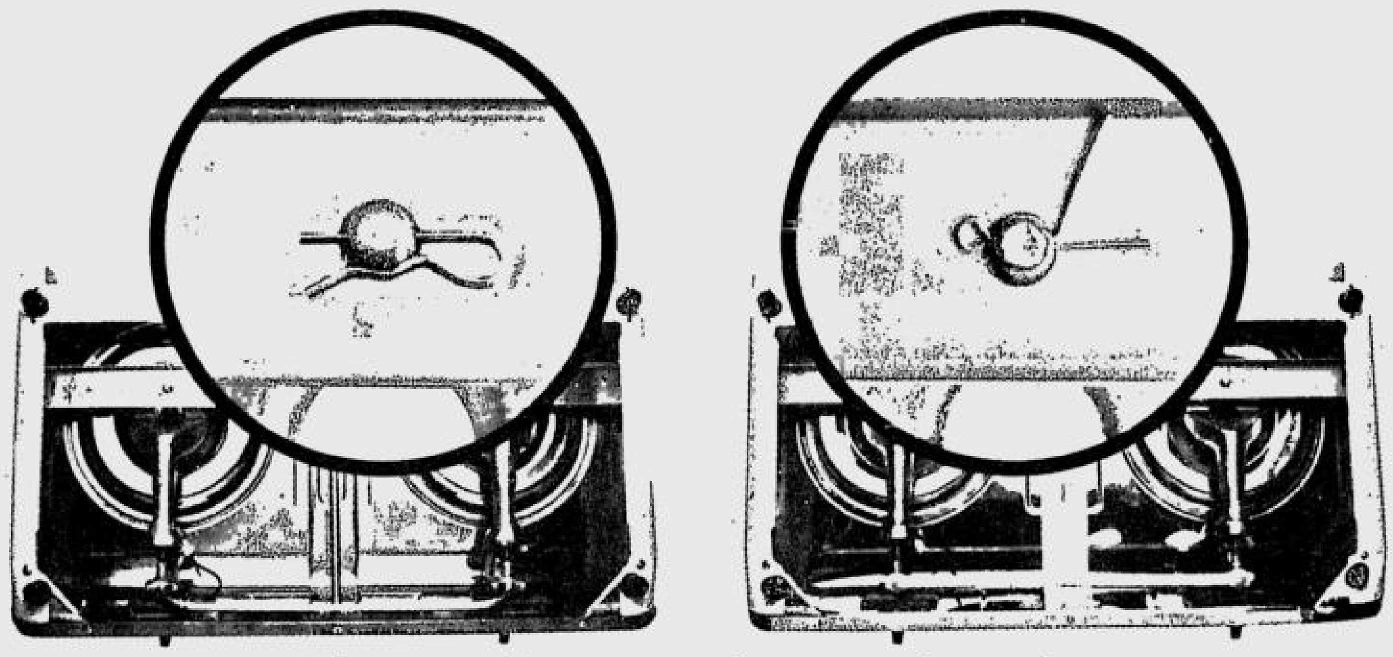

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ORIGINAL CLIP

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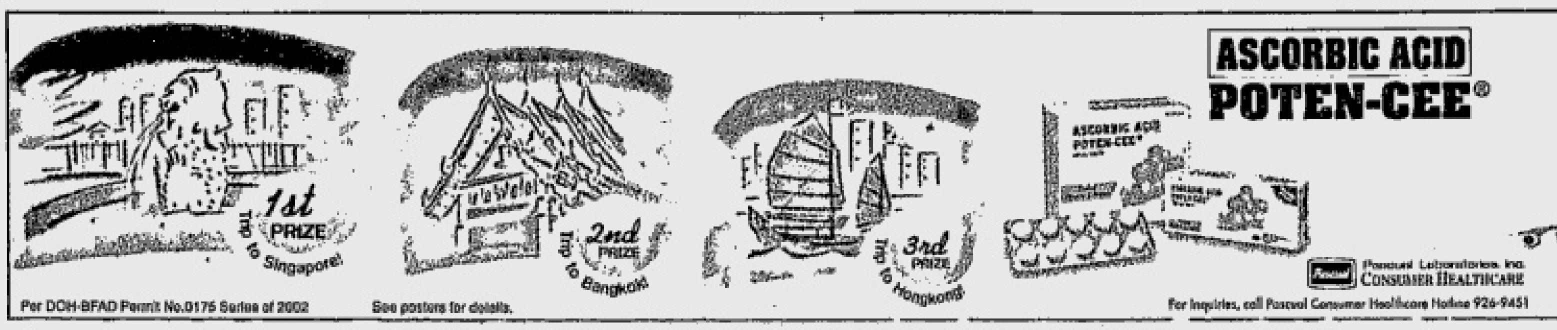
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Tito says letter does not exist, backs Heherson

From page A1

ond or third week of March.

Former DENR Undersecretary Roseller dela Peña, like Alvarez a member of the Lakas-NUCD, said he met Guingona at the Vice President's residence in New Manila, Quezon City. Guingona is the party's president, while Alvarez is secretary general.

"I will endorse you if I'm already certain that Sonny (Alvarez) will not make it before the CA (Commission on Appointments)," Dela Peña recalled Guingona telling him.

He said it was a "pleasant surprise" when he received in the mail a copy of the letter the Presidential Management Staff sent to Guingona, acknowledging receipt of Guingona's endorsement of Dela Peña.

"I was thankful to the Vice President. It was an honor," Dela Peña said. "I did not know that he had endorsed me until the mail came."

Copy secured

Yesterday, Dela Peña went to the Palace to try to secure a copy of Guingona's alleged letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo. According to Dela Peña, lawyer Jose Wilfrido Oca of the Presidential Management Staff confirmed that he had indeed signed the acknowledgment letter.

Dela Peña also said he spoke with Oca's boss, Assistant Secretary Charito Elegir, who reportedly told him that the PMS was under orders to keep Guingona's letter of recommendation under lock and key.

He said that Elegir also advised him to send a formal request to the PMS.

But acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, who is also PMS head, said the PMS had indeed received a "purported" letter from Guingona but discovered only on Wednesday night that it was "spurious."

Dela Peña was DENR undersecretary for legal affairs during the Estrada administration and remained in his post after Edsa II until Alvarez became DENR chief and relieved him in April last year.

Last Wednesday, members of the CA environment committee agreed to hold one final hearing, where those opposed to Alvarez's confirmation will be given 30 minutes each to make their respective presentations.

After the oppositors, the CA environment committee will then hold a closed-door caucus and endorse its resolution on Alvarez's nomination to the bicameral CA, which will hold its plenary session the following day.

A total of 21 groups and individuals have filed oppositions to Alvarez's confirmation. They include three employees unions in the DENR and the former director of the Environmental Management Bureau who accused Alvarez of illegal dismissal and dishonesty before the CA.

Disinformation campaign?

Alvarez yesterday said the spurious Guingona letter might be part of a disinformation campaign to thwart his confirmation by the CA. The powerful commission will hold the final hearing on Alvarez's confirmation on May 21, before Congress goes on recess.

Guingona himself also hinted that the letter could have been forged to make it appear that he was moving for the ouster of Alvarez.

Dela Peña's candid comments yesterday, however, also raised suspicions that Guingona might be simply washing his hands of a prematurely publicized issue.

Dela Peña said that, while meeting with Elegir, he noted that the PMS official had received a phone call from Guingona and that during her conversation she had opened her desk drawer and appeared to be examining some documents.

After the phone call, Dela Peña said Elegir then exclaimed, in mixed English and Filipino: "Pity my poor boss. He is under enormous pressure from his party." Elegir is reportedly a protégé of Guingona's.

When informed that Guingona had denied writing the letter, Dela Peña called a close associate of the Vice President by mobile phone.

According to Dela Peña, the associate told him that Guingona "does not want to be seen as being alone in supporting" him. He said he was told the Vice President and concurrent foreign secretary wanted other politicians, particularly congressmen, to openly express their support for him.

Dela Peña said: "I have to thank the Vice President for his recommendation. But if he has changed his mind, what can I do?" *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gerald G. Lacuarta*

LACSON on the war path.

CORPUS: Case dismissed.

Prosecutor backs Lacson's 9 libel charges vs Inquirer

From page A1

criminal activities.

INQUIRER reporters Christine Herrera and Carlito Pablo were charged with one count of libel.

Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief Col. Victor Corpuz was also charged with two counts of libel by Lacson.

Last February, Corpuz filed a counter charge of perjury saying Lacson did not tell the truth in his complaint when he denied Tulfo's accusations.

However, Salazar dismissed Corpuz's perjury case for lack of merit last Feb. 28.

According to the information filed by Assistant City Prosecutor Henry Salazar last May 2, the columns written by Tulfo "willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously and with malicious intent of impeaching the honesty, virtue and reputation of complainant."

Herrera, Pablo and Corpuz were charged in connection with a banner story published on Aug. 5, 2001, saying Lacson stashed some $211 million in US banks.

According to Lacson's lawyer Atty. Sigrid Fortun, they filed the case against Tulfo last January before Makati City prosecutors.

Charged were INQUIRER publisher Isagani Yambot, editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, news editor Artemio Engracia, Metro editor Louie Camino and columnist Recah Trinidad.

Bail has been set at P10,000 for each of the accused for each count of libel.

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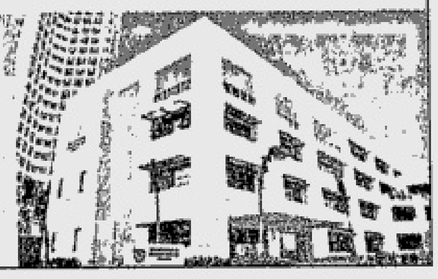

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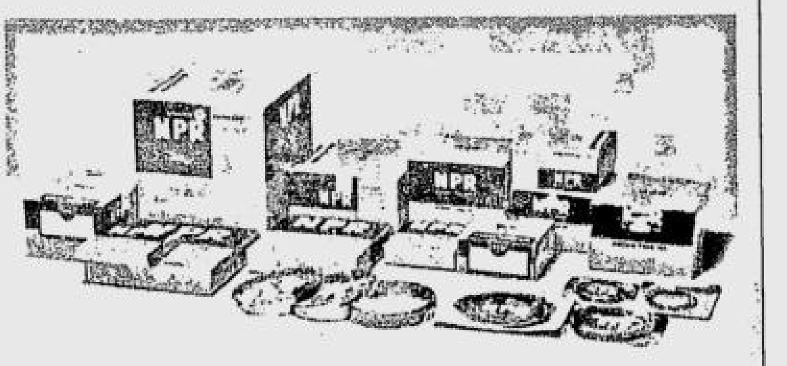

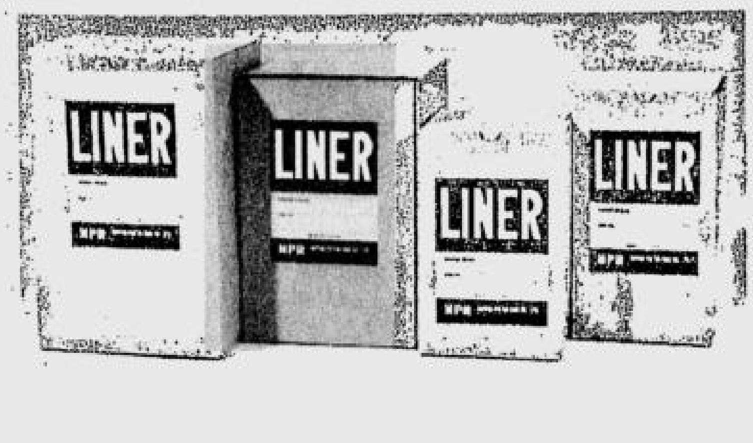

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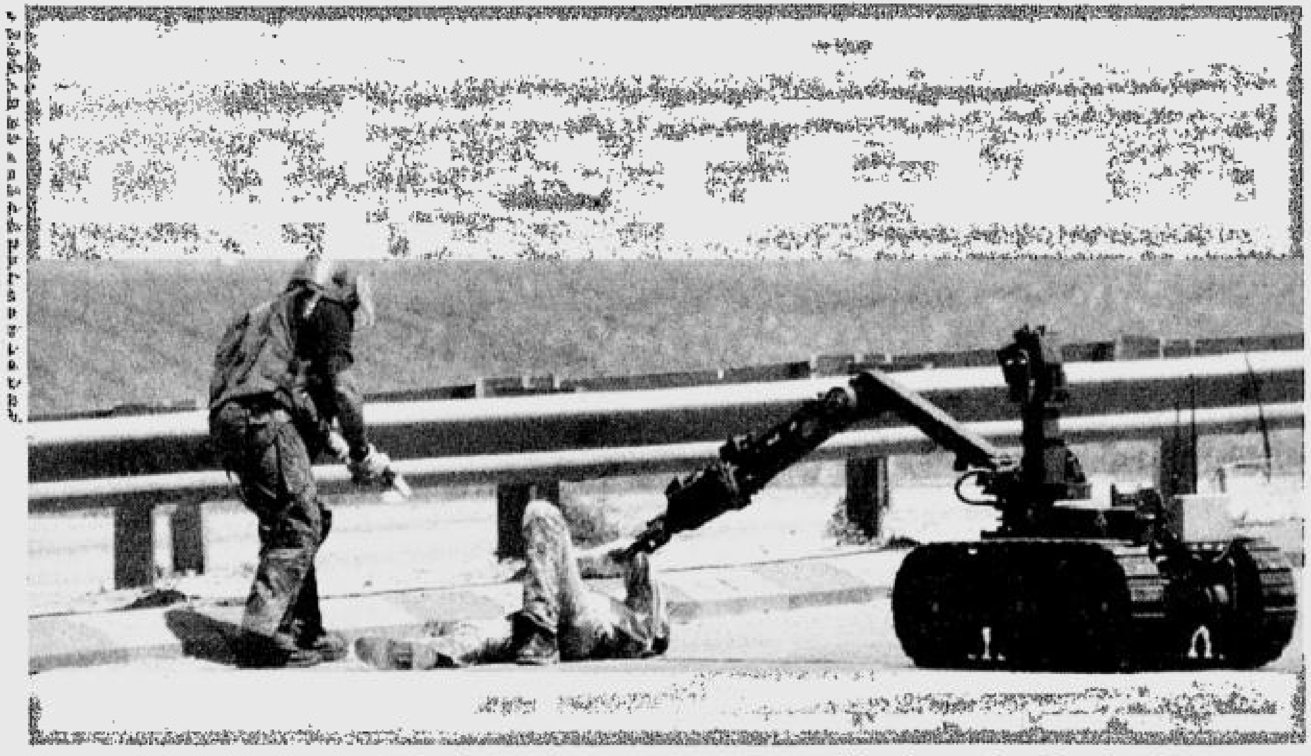

TRAPPED Palestinian bomber is checked out by a member of an Israeli bomb squad on Tuesday 12 hours after the pool hall bombing which killed 15 Israelis. The bomber detonated explosives near a bus stop south of Haifa, Israel, critically injuring himself but caused no injuries to others. GETTY IMAGES

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Israeli Cabinet gives go signal to counterattack

From page A1

but Israel said that it held Arafat responsible.

For its part, Hamas neither confirmed or denied media reports that it staged the Rishon Letzion attack.

An Israeli government statement gave no details of what military operations had been approved but said the Cabinet had empowered Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer to decide what action to take.

"The security Cabinet authorized the prime minister and defense minister to decide upon operations against terrorist targets," a government statement said.

Sharon convened his security Cabinet, a grouping of top ministers including the defense and foreign ministers, after cutting short a US visit to fly home to handle the situation.

In Bethlehem, barriers removed in preparation for the evacuation of the Nativity Church were reinstalled and a military crane was brought back to Manger Square as the sides met to iron out the latest glitch in the deal.

Under the deal, 26 Palestinian militants and all civilians were to leave the shrine while 13 wanted militants slated for exile would remain until a country agreed to host them.

But one of the 13 militants said the group would reject the accord unless guarantees were provided to ensure a European Union envoy stayed in the church to safeguard them from Israeli troops.

"If this guarantee is not given, we will reject the agreement and nobody will leave the church," one of the militants said.

"This morning, again and again after the agreement was reached, people inside blocked the implementation by making more requests, more demands," said Olivier Rafowicz of the Israeli Army that continued to ring the site holy to Christians.

"It really seems like they are trying to block implementation of the agreement," the spokesperson said in Bethlehem.

The deal would open the way for a troop withdrawal from Bethlehem, the last major West Bank town occupied by Israeli forces in an offensive launched on March 29 after more than 100 people were killed in a wave of suicide bombings.

The 13 men on Israel's most-wanted list were to stay in the church for the time being. They would then be sent to another country, possibly Spain or Italy, which had blocked the accord earlier in the week by refusing to take the militants.

The Army confirmed the deal, adding that the 39 militants had also signed pledges to renounce "terrorism."

The militants burst into the church to hide from Israeli troops when they reoccupied Bethlehem on April 2 during the West Bank offensive. Israel suspects some of them plotted two suicide bombings in Jerusalem in March that killed 12 people.

The latest violence could set back hopes of getting Arafat and Sharon to a US-proposed conference on peacemaking this summer. Turkey said it wanted to host such a gathering.

The attack raised the death toll to at least 473 Israelis and 1,345 Palestinians killed since a 19-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation began after peace talks were stalled.

Reuters

7 children . . .

From page A1

said what exploded was a supposedly spent shell of a 105-mm howitzer, which he was using as weight in his "agar-agar" farm.

Balawi said the explosion occurred while he was in the process of fashioning a new stick on which to cultivate seaweed and to which the howitzer shell was attached.

He said that according to the usual practice, he set the stick on fire to check whether it was light enough for use in the farm.

Balawi said he then went on to do other chores. Minutes later, he said, there was an explosion.

Maj. Donato San Juan, chief of the 1st Special Forces, said spent shells of howitzer bombs could still explode when set on fire.

The dead were identified as Jiang Hasmin, 3; Mansul Aiza, 10; Jaime Bayani, 13; Sali Nurjam, 9; Ibno Adjail, 10; Sanipul Adjail, 9; and Abral Sapii, 8.

The children were playing outside Balawi's house when the blast occurred.

Dr. George Rojo of the Zamboanga City Medical Center said those injured were being treated for shrapnel wounds.

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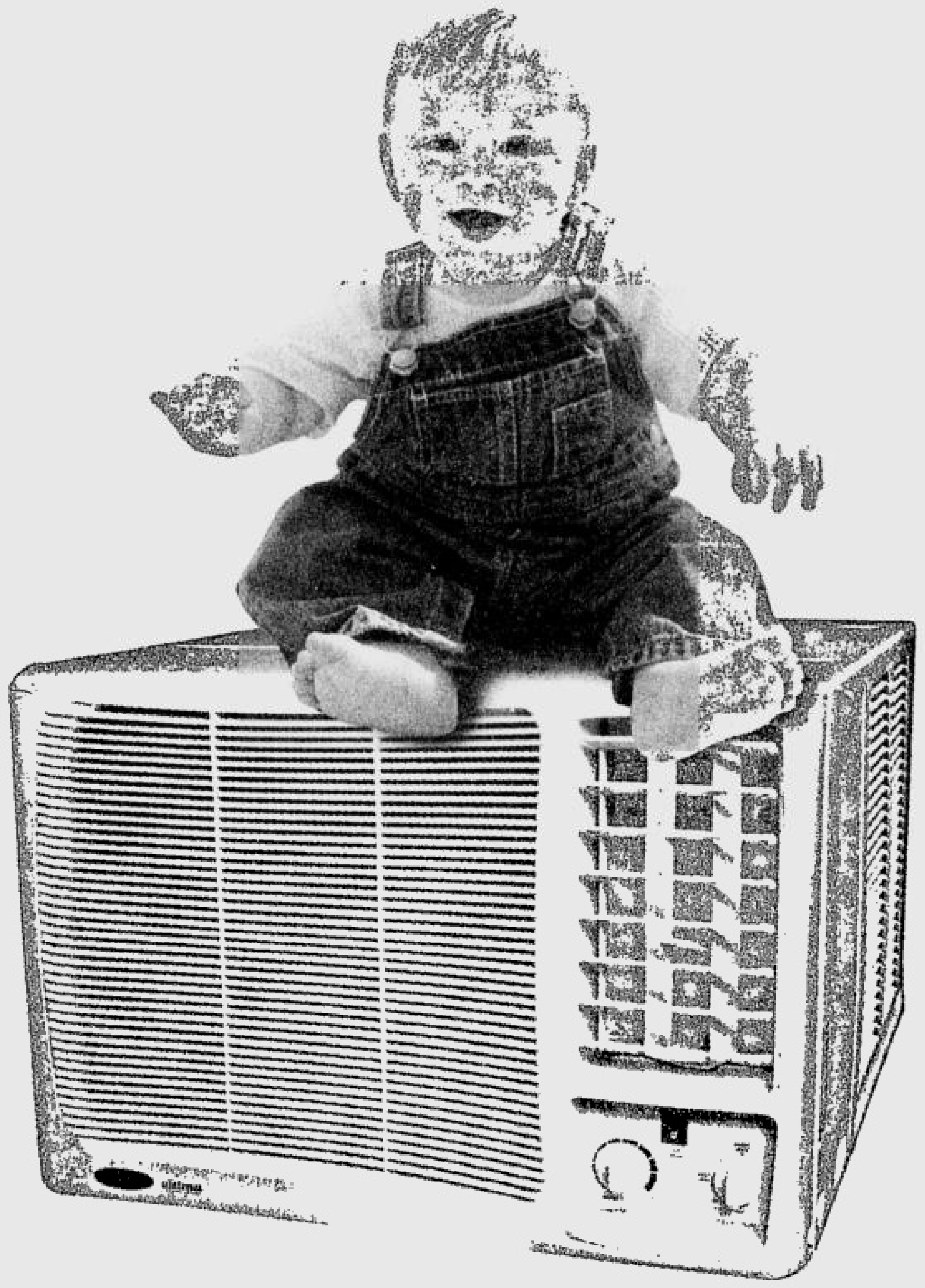

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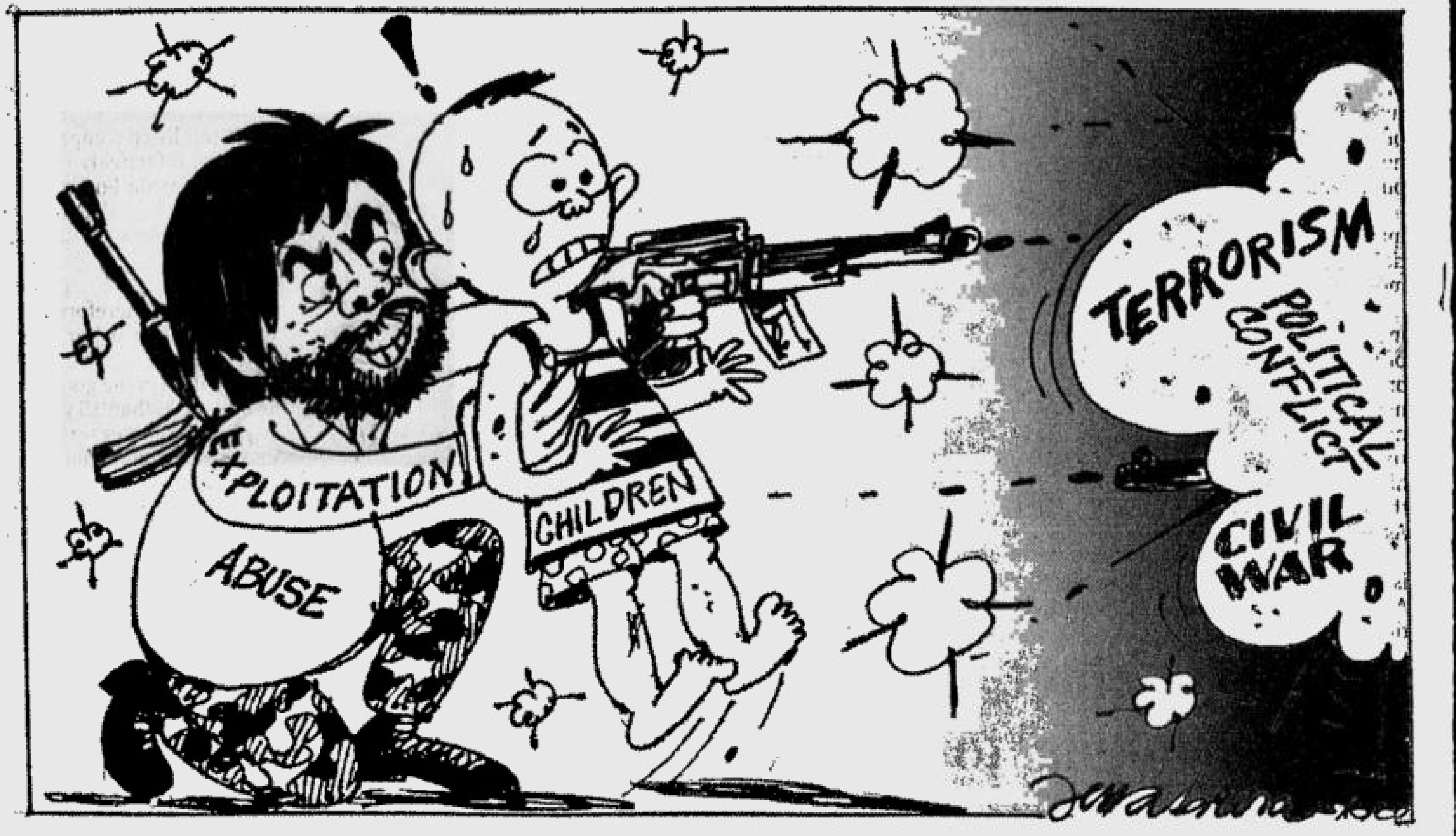

Quarrel among thieves

EDITORIAL

IT MUST have come as a big relief to many people to know that there is at least one truthful person in the House of Representatives. Too bad he didn't come forward to be recognized. Doing so would have merited him a medal for valor. But by insisting that this identity be kept secret, all he deserves is a citation for candor.

When asked to comment on the heated exchange of words between some of his House colleagues and some unidentified officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways, this congressman from Luzon said: "*Away ito ng mga tulisan. Ang sabi nga, ang magnanakaw ay galit sa kapwa magnanakaw* (This is a quarrel among thieves. It is said that a thief hates a fellow thief)." And that's the most honest statement to have come out from anyone participating in today's hottest debate.

What are the "thieves" quarreling about? At first, it was a squabble over the division of the congressional pork barrel. Then it became clear it was really a fight over the rich fat that it yields.

On Monday 60 House members complained that their districts would not get an equitable share of the P34.8 billion infrastructure budget for next year. For instance, Rep. Ted Failon pointed out that under the sharing scheme being considered by the appropriations and public works committees, Leyte's first district, which he represents, would get only P3.5 million worth of infrastructure in the 2003 budget while other districts would have an average of P35 million. This is because P250 million out of the P775-million fund for the rehabilitation of the San Juanico Bridge was being credited to his share of the infrastructure fund. Which is quite unfair since it means there will be fewer projects for Failon's district when in fact it's not only his constituents who use the San Juanico Bridge, which connects Samar and Leyte and serves as a vital link in the national highway system.

Even before House members could agree on a more equitable distribution of this pork, some DPWH officials jumped into the fray. They charged that the department no longer had any control over infrastructure projects. The lawmakers have "the final say on everything," a regional director said. Worse, one undersecretary suggested that bidding for projects was being rigged. "How can you have a credible bidding when lawmakers have already expressed their preference for certain contractors?"

Predictably the honorable members of the House were furious over such suggestions of impropriety. "How dare these people with vested interest assail the integrity of the House!" an indignant Iloilo Rep. Augusto Syjuco protested after noting that the DPWH was "the most graft-ridden department." He then moved that the committee on good government investigate the graft and corruption there.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay also threw back to DPWH officials their allegations of corruption. He said only corrupt DPWH officials were resisting the system of letting lawmakers identify projects because they wanted to make more money. "They want to identify the projects as well as to implement them?" he asked rhetorically. "That is what I call total greed."

Indeed, why should DPWH officials have a monopoly of the opportunity to satisfy their greed? The way things stand now, there is enough to go around and keep everyone satisfied. A former congressman has said anywhere between 19 and 52 percent of the cost of pork barrel projects goes into the pockets of various government officials in the form of kickbacks. The lion's share goes to the lawmaker, of course, but everyone gets a piece of the action, including the mayor, the governor, the district engineer and the auditor.

And speaking of greed, how do you call the fact that our lawmakers insist on dipping their hands into the public works pie when they already have P65 million each under the so-called Priority Development Assistance Fund?

For all their sound and fury, House members found no urgency in investigating their own charges of corruption in the DPWH. In fact, Syjuco's motion for an investigation was met with stony silence. It appears that House members were more angry about being accused of corruption than about the corruption that is going on in the DPWH as they themselves claim.

Why? Because, as one Metro Manila congressman put it, "They are happy with their arrangements with the DPWH." And an investigation would not just terminate such "arrangements" but quite possibly implicate some House members.

Thieves may quarrel, but when threatened they also observe the time-honored code of silence.

A little bit of heaven in the hellish city

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

HUNDREDS of thousands of people pass by it every day. Few bother to turn their heads to look and wonder what's in it. Even fewer get to enter and see what's inside. That's the Arroceros Forest Park beside the LRT station in the Mehan Gardens near the Manila City Hall.

Last Monday, I had the privilege of entering its steel gates, courtesy of the officers of the Winners Foundation, the women's association that raised the funds and worked very hard to make it what it is today. It was like entering another world. It is what its name says, a veritable forest—right in the middle of one of the most densely populated and polluted cities in the world.

It is full of trees: huge centuries-old banyan trees with roots hanging from its branches, and many smaller ones of different species, all with identifying tags. A good place to learn botany.

A wide asphalt road runs around it. It is sandwiched by the Pasig River and Arroceros Street and the LRT line. The northern boundary is the foot of the Quezon Bridge and the southern boundary is the bodegas of City Hall.

It is only two hectares big, a pocket park, a little bit of green in a concrete jungle. But it is enough to be a refuge, a haven for the harried city dweller hemmed in by urban blight. It is a little open space with some fresh air and plenty of trees and shrubs. Strangely enough, although it is surrounded by the infernal traffic, it is quiet inside the forest park. The trees and plants deaden the sounds of traffic. Here, one can meditate, pray or just commune with nature. It is a little bit of heaven in the hell that is the city.

Here, office workers in City Hall and nearby offices, students from Intramuros and even shoppers from across the Pasig can spend their lunch break and go back to work refreshed. Those who don't have to go back to work can even spend a refreshing siesta here.

Unfortunately, the forest park is not yet open to the public. Because the Winners Foundation has run out of funds. The government, national and local, did not spend, and is not spending a single centavo for the park. All the expenses came from private donations. These donations are exhausted but the park is still incomplete. It has no lights yet to make it a pleasant place to cool down in the evenings. Footpaths to wind among the trees are needed. A small pond in the middle with fish and a few ducks and geese would give a tremendous relaxing and cooling effect. Picnic tables and benches would make it a wonderful spot for lunches and snacks. It needs security guards for obvious reasons, and another gardener (the Winners Foundation can afford to pay only one gardener) and comfort rooms, not to say funds for electricity and water.

But the public should be able to enjoy it now so the people will know what they're going to miss if City Hall's plan to build a teachers' dormitory in the park materializes. (There already is a sign on the park's fence that it would be the site of the dormitory.) But the teachers themselves, when they saw what's inside the park and were told that it would be replaced by their very own dormitory, remarked: "*Sayang naman.*" They didn't want any dormitory if it meant cutting down any of the trees.

Much as it is a very worthy project and should be replicated in other parts of Manila and emulated by other cities and municipalities, the Arroceros Forest Park—which is already cited in tourist guide books—is a victim of city politics.

The two-hectare park used to be the site of the offices of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. When the DECS moved to its new offices, the quonset huts and wooden office buildings were abandoned. For years, City Hall did not do anything to clear the jumble of concrete, steel and wood in the site.

When Alfredo Lim became mayor, the Winners Foundation offered to clear and clean it and plant trees in it and make it a park at its own expense. A memorandum of agreement was signed between the mayor and the foundation giving the latter the right to develop it—and at no expense to the city. The foundation called in the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation which cleared the place, jackhammered out the concrete slabs and planted thousands of saplings.

That was seven years ago and now the trees are a sight to behold and even Joyce Kilmer will be inspired to write more poems about trees if he were to spend a quiet hour in the Arroceros Forest Park.

But the rivalry and animosity between former Mayor Lim and his former vice mayor and now Mayor Lito Atienza has made the park and the adjacent Mehan Gardens a hostage. Atienza, claim environmental NGOs, wants to erase the park because it was a project of Lim. In the same way that he wants to scuttle the City College in the old Philippine National Bank building on the Escolta because it was set up by Lim. Atienza wants to build a new City College and he wants to build it in the Mehan Gardens.

Cities in other parts of the world nurture every bit of open space and even buy private lands to convert them into parks, but Manila is doing the opposite. What is already open space it is converting into concrete. Part of the Mehan Gardens has already been transformed into the concrete Park 'N Ride parking building which the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had ordered stopped but which was completed anyway and is now incurring a fine of P50,000 a day. When the fines reach P20 million, which is the alleged value of the building (the fines now total P10 million; it will reach P20 million in another year), the government will foreclose it and tear the building down, says the DENR.

How will this all end?

Reexaminations

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DID say last Monday that I had my own theories about why our democracy is the mutant that it is. One that has all the formal properties of a democracy but few of its substantive aspects. One that is magnificent in letter but wretched in spirit. One that makes some people "more equal" than others.

I have in fact a couple of propositions in this respect. I know they barely scratch the surface by way of explaining the phenomenon, but they may offer some food for thought.

One of them is that the attitude, or orientation, that attends this democracy comes from the culture bequeathed by the Spaniards of giving tremendous importance to ritual at the expense of essence. It is an attitude, or orientation, in fact that dominates our whole way of life. A great deal of it comes from religion, or Catholicism as we have come to know it, which is itself a mutant in many ways.

A person commits a sin, and all he has to do is go to the confessional and say a few "Our Fathers" and "Hail Marys," and he is free to commit the same sin again and again. Religion of course also says that forgiveness doesn't come without penitence, but that turns up to be very fine print that nobody minds. Nobody even minds it when it is applied to political or social questions such as "reconciliation." The Marcoses were forgiven even without making an act of contrition. Hell, they were even forgiven without saying a few "Our Fathers" and "Hail Marys."

Or if you are more dramatic, such as some of the poor are during Lent, you can go around lashing your back with leather thongs spiked with dull glass. Given back a clean slate, you are free to lie, cheat and murder once again.

You observe all the sacraments, you go to Mass every Sunday and holy days, and you do so while rolling out your finery, also called your Sunday best, and you do not have to go through the trouble of being honest and upright. Worst comes to worst, when you've been incorrigibly dedicated to the cardinal sins, you can always rely on a *padrino*, literally a patron saint, to intercede for you upstairs. Being Christian in sum is looking like one, not acting like one.

Clearly, that monumental divide between appearance and reality, between ritual and essence, penetrates every aspect of our life. It does so our concept, or practice, of democracy.

It does not greatly matter that our officials routinely steal from the coffers, what matters is that they make a big show of holding hearings on corruption. It does not matter that we beat up suspects and "salvage" them, what matters is that we have a Bill of Rights tacked on to the beginning of the Constitution. It does not matter that we exclude the people in decisions affecting their lives, what matters is that we have elections, plebiscites and presidential TV programs that show dialogue.

It does not matter that we have an autocracy, what matters is that we call it a democracy.

My other proposition is that the Americans never taught us democracy, what they taught us was a semblance of it.

I've always found that a curious notion, that America taught us democracy. But it has become one of those "self-evident" truths, like the ones claimed by the Bill of Rights, that has been left unchallenged over the years. America taught us democracy, we simply either did not learn or promptly forgot the lessons. That is why we are now where we are.

But you reflect for a moment on the nature of the American occupation, and you wonder how America could possibly have taught us democracy. Any teacher worth his salt will tell you that how you teach is just as important as what you teach, if not more so. You cannot teach your students the importance of asserting themselves when you act like a despot in the classroom. You cannot teach your students the importance of being independent when you keep them depending on you. And you certainly cannot teach your students the value of freedom when you stifle their desire to be free. That was what American colonial rule was.

You introduce the Bill of Rights, the Constitution and the American way of life in these circumstances, and you do not teach people to act democratically, you teach them to divorce theory from practice, ritual from essence, appearance from reality. How would our forefathers, or foremothers, have taken the lessons in liberal democracy while living a life where a foreign power, who took the form of gruff soldiers, many of them veterans of the Indian Wars, held life and death over them? All that would merely have corroborated what they had already learned from the Spaniards, which was to live a schizophrenic life, or live on two levels. All they would have learned was that the rule did not apply to everyone. Some people were more equal than others.

Equality applied to everyone, except the Americans. No one was above the law, except the Americans. Freedom was freedom from everyone, except the Americans. The Americans would never entirely disappear from the picture—certainly not today, after they have returned with a vengeance. But the list of exceptions would grow longer with time. Honesty applied to everyone, except government officials. The Bill of Rights applied to everyone, except the poor. The law applied to everyone, except the rich.

None of this is to suggest that we ourselves had nothing to do with making a mess of things. Which is what foreigners and Filipinos in America, who are often one and the same, unfailingly complain about when we dredge up our colonial past to throw light on our dismal present. We did have much to do with that. But none of it detracts from the double-edged legacies we've had to work with from the start.

And that, in any case, is yet another story.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

The power of families

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AT A SEMINAR on changing corporate Asia at the Australian Embassy last Monday, former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao told the anecdote that in Lipa City not so long ago, if you wanted to get things done, all you had to do was to talk to the Kalaw and Katigbak families. Estanislao, now president and chief executive officer of the Institute of Corporate Directors, put his finger on one of the enduring features of the Philippine economy—the power and influence of wealthy Filipino families.

Very little has changed in curbing by the Philippine state of the power of the family corporations, despite the fact that the country has been moving toward regulation of their activities.

A study of the changing corporation structures in Asia, prepared by the Economic Analytical Unit of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, highlighted the finding that "diverse, mainly family controlled conglomerates, dominate the corporate sector." "The Philippines' top five families," says the report, "account for a higher proportion of share market capitalization than do the same sized group in any other East Asian economies."

"Ownership of the Philippine corporate sector is one of the most highly concentrated in East Asia, causing significant corporate issues," says the report, although it also acknowledges that the government is "attempting to move toward a rules-based business environment." After the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the government "reviewed many aspects of the corporate regulatory framework and increased market openness, improving incentives for sound corporate behavior."

In describing the corporate sector structure, the report said that "many Philippine markets lack competition, with diverse, family controlled conglomerates operating alongside large government-owned firms." Private individuals "own most firms and rely almost exclusively on private and bank debt financing," the report said. "Even listed firms retain close to 70 percent of their equity in private hands and draw their finance mostly from banks," the report said. "Relatively weak competition in finance, goods and services markets shelters managers from external discipline. Conglomerates form cartels, which guarantee high profit rates in many markets, despite often poor management."

To illustrate concentration of family ownership, the report points out that the Philippines' top five families control almost 43 percent of total listed corporate assets, "the highest proportion in East Asia." In total, "families control 48 percent of publicly listed firms where control is defined as 20 percent of equity; this is the second highest rate of family ownership in East Asia after Hong Kong," the report said. "Families tightly control most boards, minimizing outside minority shareholder's influence. Business groups often comprise a complex mix of listed and private companies, producing opaque structures. Of the major banks, only Far East Bank is not owned by a family, a single firm or the government."

Philippine corporates "cross-hold more equity, creating larger conglomerates, than do corporates in any other East Asian economy except Japan," the report said. "They operate in a wide range of sectors, including real estate, services, banking, infrastructure supply, manufacturing, retail, telecommunications and mass media. While this can often reduce their economies of scale and raise costs, entry barriers maintain high profits at consumers' expense. Corporate groups with affiliated banks and finance companies can access cheap finance, reducing their need for direct financing."

The report cited the Ayala family as an example of a conglomerate that operates across the economy. It said: "The Ayala family, through a web of complex structures, owns the Philippines' largest conglomerate, the Ayala Group. The Ayala Group's 48 companies control local telecommunications companies, real estate, food, agribusiness and industrial interests, and own the Bank of the Philippine Islands, one of the country's largest banks.

"The family wholly owns Mermac, which owns 59 percent of Ayala Corp., a conglomerate member and second largest listed company in the Philippines. Ayala Corp. effectively controls Ayala Land, AYC Overseas, Ayala Foundation, IMicro Electronics, Pure Foods and Globe Telecom. Those companies then own substantial proportions of other firms in the group. Despite this, Ayala Group is relatively more exposed to international competition, and therefore greater management discipline, than other large family owned conglomerates."

Although competition in the goods and service markets "is more vigorous than 15 years ago when the Philippines started market opening," the report said, "some family conglomerates face only limited competition, especially in the services markets, where foreign entry barriers remain high. For example, the Ayala Group profits from its globally competitive firms in international markets but faces limited competition in domestic markets."

The report said competition in some sectors was weak, featuring a small number of firms. "Within industries, companies' price movements are similar, suggesting cartels prevail, especially regionally. For example, monopolies dominate telecommunications and the top five banks control 50 percent to total assets."

The implication of family controlled conglomerates, said the report, is that "despite concerted official attempts to improve and enforce the Philippines' reasonably good corporate governance legislation, checking the market power of large, well-connected family owned conglomerates and enforcing corporate laws are proving difficult." It said regulators "need more financial and human resources and training to build institutional capacity."

Would protection have helped?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF the fathers (or the mothers) of the "church properties," as children sired by priests are still quaintly known, had used protection against pregnancy, would it have mitigated or aggravated the original sin?

One thing's for sure, if contraception had been employed, there would have been less proof of an erring priest's sexual transgressions. On the one hand, if contraception was used, a man who had broken his vow of celibacy—just once or countless times—would have been able to walk away from a sticky situation without so much as an apology, and without his brother priests or bishop knowing. On the other, if contraception was used then it would have spared an innocent party, the child, from living with the stigma of shame and secrecy (not to mention abandonment) that still, despite the times, haunts the fruits of illicit conception.

How should such a man and his partner be judged? As a couple who, despite knowing they are violating some of the strongest taboos in our Catholic country, employ protection to spare themselves the consequences of their actions? Or as two consenting adults who choose to use protection precisely because they're all too aware of the consequences of their actions and wish to take responsibility for them?

These are just rhetorical questions, of course. And of course, this is not meant to imply that ALL or even MOST priests are guilty of sexual misconduct. Neither should we rush in judgment of men who, despite their holy orders, are still human and thus weak and vulnerable in the face of temptation.

* * *

STILL, consider this. Father W mounts the pulpit each Sunday and preaches against the evils of the "contraceptive mentality." He may even actually believe that "pills promote promiscuity" and that "condoms do not protect against HIV infection and pregnancy." Which may be why he chooses not to use them when having sex with his girlfriend. Or could it be, having grown up in the confines of a seminary, he knows nothing of safe sex or even sex education?

In the face of the increasing media scrutiny on priests involved in sex scandals, the local Church has finally spoken out beyond defensive declarations. The spokesperson of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has even "apologized" in behalf of all erring priests (though I wonder why he wasn't looking at the cameras when he aired his apology?).

The tone taken in the face of the stories about "church properties" and sexual predators in clerical robes is gentle and conciliatory. There is no rush to condemn the men implicated. What we have gotten instead are appeals for understanding, and reminders that the majority of priests have still managed, with grace, to keep true to their vows.

* * *

WHAT a contrast, though, to the attitude adopted by priests and bishops when discussing the issue of contraception and family planning as practiced (or not) by the laity!

There is little discussion of the motives that compel a couple to choose a family planning method that isn't deemed "natural" enough for the churchmen. Or of the reasons behind a single man's or woman's choice to become sexually active while behaving responsibly and using protection.

What we hear instead are sweeping condemnations of contraception as "sinful," and judgmental conclusions about the "selfish" motivations behind the "contraceptive mentality." Would that priests and bishops be as understanding and nuanced in their judgments toward lay people and our foibles as they want us all to be toward their confreres!

The only reason the priestly scandals make such hot media copy is the contrast between the exalted stature of clerics in society and the sleazy behavior of a few individual clerics. We have been asked to be compassionate toward the few, and less sweeping about the many. And while we may be willing to give in to this request, would it be too much to ask the same from them?

* * *

NOTICES: "Samahan Natin Sila... (Let Us Be with Them)" is a "Mother's Day Concert" in honor of the "sacrifices, love life and struggles of mothers."

Gary Granada leads a cast of women performers in the concert to be held at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow, Saturday, Mother's Day eve, at The Studio, Riverbanks Complex, Baranka, Marikina City.

Funds raised from the concert will go to support the activities of Anawim, or Alyansa ng mga Nag-iisang Magulang (Alliance of Solo Parents). It is an organization of urban poor solo parents, mostly women, who became solo parents out of the death of a spouse or partner, separation or abandonment, or single parenthood. Motherhood is a big enough challenge as it is, but when one is poor and burdened with the sole responsibility for raising one's children, then the obstacles are indeed daunting to the extreme. The women of Anawim truly deserve our support!

The first seminar-workshop on the theory and practice of translation in the Philippines will be held from May 16-17 at the Pulungang Claro M. Recto of the Bulwagang Rizal (formerly Faculty Center) of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Titled "Translation from Various Perspectives," the seminar-workshop is open to translation practitioners in the country and to all those interested in the possibilities to be found in the field of translation in an increasingly globalized world. A registration fee of P1,500 will be charged all participants.

For inquiries, ask for Nelia Gahol, Translation Program Office, Room 3126, Bulwagang Rizal, Tel. No. 920-5301 to 99, local 7963 or the Office of the Dean, UP College of Arts and Letters.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Where lie Andres Bonifacio's bones?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHENEVER I travel out of Manila I bring a book to keep me company. On short trips for pleasure, the book shouldn't require much thinking. But if the trip is long and the purpose is research, I carry a travel account of the place I am visiting. Once I walked around Dapitan with a copy of Jose Rizal's letters written from his seaside property. On trips to Calamba I bring Rizal's juvenile diary. Being one of the most traveled Filipinos of his time, Rizal's letters, diaries and notebooks have entertained me in London, Paris, New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, etc. It is quite an experience to be walking around in the 21st century using a 19th-century source as a tour guide. An old travel account may be an odd companion for any trip, but this way of sightseeing I owe to the late Teodoro Agoncillo who advised me that a historian should try and visit the places he is writing about. One should never reply on second-hand information. Besides, you can never discount the insights that come simply by standing in a historical place.

Following Agoncillo's advice, I once drove around Cavite retracing the path of Andres Bonifacio from the estate house where the Tejeros convention was held (now ruins), to Limbon where he was captured, to the house where he was tried in Maragondon, ending in a tiring trek to a group of hills outside Maragondon where the Supremo and his brother were executed on May 10, 1897. It was cloudy when Agoncillo visited Mt. Buntis close to 60 years ago, at the time he was given a bit of local lore. "*Kapag nagtapis ng ulap ang buntis* (when clouds cover Mt. Buntis)" intoned Agoncillo's informant, "*may mangyayaring masama* (something bad will happen)." Upon his return to Manila, Agoncillo dug up the almanacs for 1897 and found out that Bonifacio was indeed executed on a cloudy day. Thus, this bit of local color found its proper place in his landmark work "Revolt of the Masses: The Story of Bonifacio and the Katipunan." Agoncillo declared that he never invented details in his narratives. With a roar of laughter he would say that everything in his writing was factual—including the weather!

Since then I have visited the bat caves of Biak-na-Bato carrying Pedro Paterno's "Pact of Biak-na-Bato." Going further up north I tried to follow Emilio Aguinaldo's path from Malolos to Palanan by using the diaries of Dr. Santiago Barcelona and Col. Simeon Villa (incidentally the father of the late National Artist Jose Garcia Villa). Unfortunately, I have yet to set foot in Palanan but as far as the so-called "flight and wanderings of Aguinaldo" are concerned, I have covered the way up to Ilocos and parts of the Cordilleras. On a more contemporary note, I have a standing invitation to visit Pangasinan with National Artist F. Sionil Jose who wants to show me the landscape described in his Rosales novels.

It has been five years since we commemorated the 100th anniversary of the death of Bonifacio. It has been two years since the Bonifacio Trial House was refurbished and opened to the public. A memorial will be held today where Bonifacio was believed to have been executed, and yet we are still closing in on the truth. Bonifacio's remains were found at the turn of the last century, but my research in 1997 proves these were fake. Andres and Procopio Bonifacio still lie undiscovered in the Maragondon range, leaving no closure to this depressing part of our history.

When I visited the so-called execution site of the Bonifacio brothers, I had read a number of accounts of the execution by Lazaro Makapagal, the man who led the group that executed the Bonifacio brothers. The story is basically the same—he received orders, took the Bonifacios to the mountain, executed them and buried them. There are slight differences in the details depending on the time and place Makapagal is retelling his story. That related to Santiago Alvarez reads:

"With some troops, I was ordered to escort the Bonifacio brothers to Mount Buntis. I was instructed to stop before reaching the summit of the mountain at a concealed yet spacious place; there I was to put the prisoners under heavy guard. Then I was to open the sealed letter to be given to me by Gen. Mariano Noriel and to read it to the Bonifacio brothers.

"I followed the instructions carefully...First I read the letter by myself. When I understood its contents, my lips trembled and I was speechless for some time. Oh, what compassion I felt!

"The instructions said I was to obey strictly the order to shoot the brothers. Should I fail to do so, it would be I who would be shot on my return to headquarters...After I had read the order to the prisoners. Procopio wept, embraced Andres, and asked, *Kuya, paano tayo*?

"Andres did not say a word. he bowed his head and sobbed while bitter tears welled in his eyes and rolled down his cheeks. Not able to bear it, I turned my back, and when I faced them again, the deed was done. My men had fired shots and the poor Bonifacio brothers were prostrate and dead. Then I paid proper respect to their remains."

105 years since Bonifacio's death, despite so much research, we still remain far from the truth.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

In the US national security heartland

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

ON THE ROAD—Traveling around the Maryland-Washington, D.C.-Virginia triangle inevitably conjures images of George W. Bush and his relentless war on terrorism. This is reinforced by traffic signs which point to Langley in Virginia, the CIA headquarters, or to Fort Mead in Maryland, the site of the National Security Administration (NSA). And, of course, around Washington, one can't miss the Pentagon, none the worse for the direct hit on one of its sides on Sept. 11.

In a word, you are on the American national security heartland. That realization begins even before you board the plane for either the Dulles International Airport or the Reagan National Airport in Washington. In Chicago, where I was catching a connecting flight to Reagan, I was made to take off my shoes for inspection, while another inspector made me raise both arms, as if in surrender. Then I was made to produce an ID with a picture on it, and another inspector asked what the expiration date of my ID was. I said there was no expiration date on Hawaii state IDs as far as I know. To avoid more hassle, I produced my Philippine passport since it has an expiration date.

Then before I could wake myself up from the long flight from Hawaii, the flight attendant announced that if anyone wanted to use the bathroom, now was the time. She added that no one would be allowed to use the bathroom at least 30 minutes before landing in Washington. You couldn't go even if you were desperate. You have to stay put on your seat. So I didn't order the coffee I was dying to have because I knew I would go to the bathroom eventually. And the Chicago-Washington flight is a relatively short one.

I reflected on all this seeming paranoia and imagined that the Sept.11 terrorists on those planes probably brandished their knives and took over the cockpits in the last 30 minutes of those ill-fated flights ramming the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Of course, this was at best a speculative deduction, but it could have happened that way.

Now on the ground, there is a new sense of uptightness as the Israeli-Palestinian crisis explodes and the bedraggled Bush has another war in his hands. But he confidently assures the nation, especially because the CIA, which oversees America's $35 billion-a-year intelligence empire, has been given new authority and status. The CIA has come under severe criticism for its failures and lapses to predict the Sept. 11 attacks.

The staggering amount, of course, doesn't go to the CIA alone, although its budget has increased by a billion dollars. The US security network (some prefer the term "umbrella," since "network" connotes coordination of efforts which is mostly not there) includes a dozen or so agencies including the mammoth NSA and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has deployed more agents overseas. CIA director George Tenet, described by writer Edward Klein, as a "classic Type A personality with a short fuse," presides over this intelligence community, often wracked by "independent-minded baronies." Klein has talked with some CIA top leaders to answer questions like, "What exactly is the role of the CIA today?" "Could anything have been done to avoid the Sept. 11 attacks?" Part of the agency's job is "predicting futures." "Can the CIA Keep Us Safe?" is one of Klein's latest provocative articles.

Searching for appropriate websites, one finds that the intelligence network is not just composed of the CIA-NSA-FBI triumvirate. Since Sept. 11, Washington has crafted a wide-ranging plan to strengthen the nation's security framework. A new Office of Homeland Security has been created and is now seeking Cabinet status. The Defense Department has its own Defense Intelligence Agency, which tracks the "war-making intentions of other nations."

Even the Treasury Department has been given new powers to track suspicious financial transactions, thereby enabling it to freeze suspected terrorist assets. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), dreaded by foreigners in this country, now has sophisticated technology to track non-US citizens or illegal aliens. The INS took a beating for giving student visas to some of the terrorists who pulled off Sept. 11.

There are other lesser known and smaller agencies in the nooks and crannies of Capitol Hill which now play key roles in the terrorism war. There is an "Epidemiological Intelligence Service," which nobody can pronounce with ease, let alone spell, in charge of issuing early warnings against bioterrorism. Bioterrorist attacks are much feared as the future mode of terrorism the world faces.

Ever heard of Transportation Security Administration? Probably not, but this new federal agency is designed to make air travel safe by using federal agents and sophisticated machines to detect bombs which could be in your shoes. Hence, all these interminable procedures you have to go through before flying. And the Federal Emergency Management Agency? Never heard, but it's yet another federal unit to provide resources and training to state and local firefighters, police and emergency medical personnel in case of attacks like Sept. 11.

One wonders whether this proliferation of security agencies doesn't compound current fundamental problems of bureaucratic intrigue, turfing or infighting, inertia, lack of communication, arrogant or blundering behavior and over-reliance on electronic rather than human intelligence. As it turns out, from 1991 to 1996, there had been offers of valuable intelligence information from Sudan, the Osama bin Laden headquarters at the time, but the agency, the critics point out, refused to consider them. There were also intelligence reports from Manila regarding the activities of the original bombers of the World Trade Center in the early '90s, but again, they were ignored.

In effect, more doesn't necessarily mean safer. More confusion could be the result. Meanwhile, a joint congressional committee will conduct hearings shortly to look into the crucial questions about the intelligence network's "systemic failure" and other lapses that led to the Sept. 11 tragedy.

Belinda A. Aquino from the University of Hawaii at Manoa writes from the Washington area during the semester break.

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No need to probe Freedom Force

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice is investigating in earnest the moves of what some people refer to as the Freedom Force, and it is reported that the full resources of the National Bureau Investigation will be applied to this. Perhaps it would suffice if they will just give Teddy Benigno a jar of tranquilizers to spare him from his nightmares of the Apocalypse and give Dodi Limcaoco with a thesaurus to widen his vocabulary to include the meaning and nuances of the word "junta."

The confluence of events and circumstances that will bring together the diverse sectors of Philippine society to overthrow in a bloodbath an inept and corrupt government can never happen because avenues for relief are ever available to those who may be threatened by a precipitous situation. Those in big business and with ample resources have shifted some of their investments to better governed countries and would need little effort relocating all if the extreme need arises. The middle class and the intellectuals may have migrated before the cataclysmic event dreaded by Benigno occurs, and those left behind may be inured to the din of scandals we have been subjected to in the last 50 years of self-rule to risk even losing a little finger for a cause. Our masses have been conditioned to their miserable state over centuries of colonial rule, including the years of self-rule of over 50 years when the richest and the brightest among us merely assumed the roles of the erstwhile exploiters of the disadvantaged. They may just be mollified by occasional lunches with the President.

The opportunity to improve his lot in life was lost to the plebeian when leadership in the struggle to overthrow the Spanish yoke shifted from the Katipunan to the *illustrados* after the murder of Andres Bonifacio in Cavite and his revolution subsequently sold at Biak na Bato to the beleaguered Spanish colonial forces. The war against the new American colonizers became mainly a struggle for self-rule by the Filipino elite rather than for the upliftment of the masses.

A new aristocracy of the corrupt politicians and greedy rich that has evolved in the last half century, depriving the poor of their fair share of the nation's wealth, need not be overthrown by violence. Ostracism and censure by an upright and sensitive intellectual and middle-class sector of society should force them into good behavior. However, a consenting middle class and a supine citizenry willing to take abuse for the crumbs doled out to them cannot gather the will and courage to rid themselves, by violence, of the malady affecting our political system. The martyrdom of Ninoy Aquino and the alleged plunder by Joseph Estrada have yet to nudge our society from lethargy and indifference into resolute action against the ills of our social and political order, handed down from one generation of crooked bureaucrats and politicians to their descendants.

The interlocking interests of nations of the world will preclude the emergence of a Freedom Force that will disrupt by violence our existing political order dreaded by Benigno. Our sole recourse to cleanse and rectify what is wrong with our practice of the democracy we profess to embrace is by keeping a critical eye and raising vociferous protest to put to shame and embarrassment those who commit malfeasance in running the nation's affairs.

—E. P. DAKANAY JR., Philamlife Village, Las Piñas City

Thoughts on Freedom Force

(INQ7 Voices is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, both local and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)

VOICES ON INQ7

TOO many organizations in the Philippines; it makes you cringe why these organizations are not making themselves useful by helping rebuild the country. Instead they engage in talk on how to destabilize the current administration. Jose Cojuangco has delivered a message that raises a lot of questions; is he for nation-building or destruction? His statements are inciting to another upheaval and at the same time he is washing his hands in case the said trouble arises in the future.

The media make their own spin; they should refrain from doing that. They should report news as is without subtracting or adding anything, let the people form their own opinion instead of feeding the people what to think!—**Leslie**

* * *

Whoever the people are behind this new junta or coup against the government are just full of bull. Instead of getting busy plotting and getting approval and signatures from other dysfunctional politicians and Cardinal Sin (aren't religion and politics supposed to be separate?), why don't these people get their heads together with the President to figure out how our country can get out of its economic slump and solve the ongoing crisis in Mindanao?

Filipino politicians are like dogs who battle for the biggest bone. They never think that sharing makes everyone happy and content. As we all know, united we stand, divided we fall. Get your act together. For once, think of the interest of the masses, of the Filipino people who put you where you are right now. Selfish ambition and personal interest will bring you down and the country as well.—**Jmilana**

* * *

Had others voted for somebody better than Estrada, somebody who can really make the Philippines great again, then there would have been no need for Edsa II or Freedom Force. People Power on Edsa in 1986 has lost its meaning because of what happened last year. Are the lessons learned from 1986 not enough? Do we have to go through the same process over and over again and learn nothing from it?—**Masa**

* * *

To all those with a messianic complex: don't forget the law. Do not let the dark side consume your passion for change and anger with the present, past or future government. Pardon me for talking like Obi-Wan using Anakin's case, but it's almost surrealistic what Copa is doing these days: crying out in the dark about monsters when there are only shadows.

Don't forget, we are a democratic nation, not another South American country. Look, even those countries got fed up with the junta governments they are very well known for, and they vowed never again to succumb to that instinct. If you think you have the answer to the country's problems, go ahead and run for public office. We need more people like you. But don't go around threatening to establish yourself as the savior of the *masa*. Even with the best of intentions, juntas tend to implode and start a new vicious cycle of juntas replacing juntas because each thinks it has a better answer, while the common people bear the horror of the chaos that will follow, the same chaos you see in your messianic visions.—**Karaniwang Tao**

* * *

I am an admirer of Teddy Benigno. "Admiration" does not even come close to describing how I regard this columnist par excellence.

I have been reading Teddy's column ever since I can remember and his writing never fails to bring me out of this world. His writing is classic literature on social and political issues of the nation. Reading his columns felt like I was reading "my" own opinion—only it was written in a manner I could never have possibly made. He is beyond words, actually an excellent writer.

I have concluded long ago that the world may frown on my opinion—but if it was shared by Teddy, I will not be bothered.

I am therefore saddened that his name is being dragged into the Freedom Force brouhaha. First—because this time, I do not agree with Teddy. But—I still believe all this is being blown out of proportion. The group may be disgruntled with the current administration but so is a certain percentage of the populace. I have always believed that Copa is the protector of the government against destabilizers from both sides. And I sleep well knowing Copa is always on a tight watch for the country—standing guard. But grab power?! I do not think so.

How could Christine Hererra of the INQUIRER have based her story on the opinion of someone who is not even in the meeting of Copa and Sin? True, Dodie Limcaoco might have tipped her—but did she try to contact Saycon, Benigno, or Fianza on the matter before splashing her story on the front page of the paper? With an accusation that grave—she should have. Tell me she did. If not, as a journalist, she should have known better. (*The INQUIRER attempted to contact Saycon repeatedly before the Copa story ran but the calls were not returned.*—**Ed.**)

My admiration for Teddyman has not diminished one bit, even if I am for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and I think she is working hard and sincerely. Because in the first place, this brouhaha stemmed from a report which seemed to be devoid of "clarity" from the people in the middle of the issue.—**Liza**

No ransom policy in Lanao del Norte

WE regret the news report under the heading "In a letter, Pierantoni confirms payment" (PDI, 4/10/02) which stated that "some mayors in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur raised the money since their towns were beneficiaries financed by the Italian government."

It is not true that mayors of Lanao del Norte helped raise the ransom money for Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni. An Italian non-government organization is undertaking socio-economic assistance from the European Union, but we are not aware of an Italian government project in Lanao del Norte.

We do not pay ransom in Lanao del Norte, and this may be the principal reason why no kidnapping has occurred in the province for some years.

—REP. ABDULLAH D. DIMAPORO, District II, Lanao del Norte

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readers advocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Freedom to ask and answer questions

I HEARTILY agree with my friend Rene Saguisag when he said in his letter published on May 3 that judges should decide cases according to what they sincerely think is right, whether or not it is popular, in fact, especially if it is unpopular. That is their job.

However, I disagree with him that the Social Weather Stations asks the survey questions that it does "as if to signal the courts to do the popular." Freedom of speech is not only freedom of the people to answer questions, but also freedom of researchers to direct certain questions to the people and to publicly report the answers they get.

The SWS' work in polling public opinion necessarily results in discovering how popular or unpopular something is, which is useful information for everyone, especially on an issue about which there is wide public concern. What people or institutions, like the INQUIRER, or the courts, or Saguisag himself decide to do, if anything at all, with such information, is entirely up to them.

—MAHAR MANGAHAS, Social Weather Stations, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

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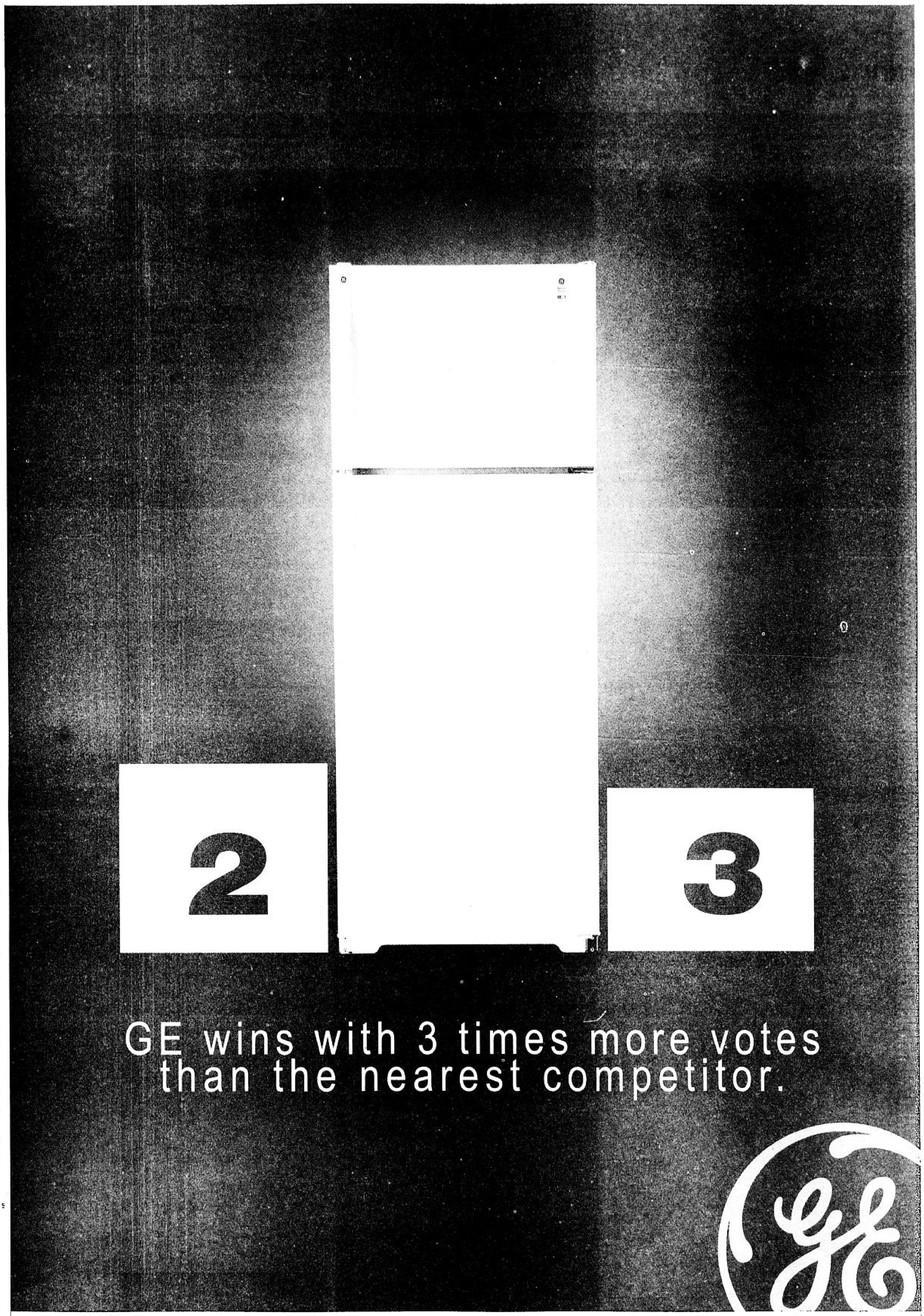
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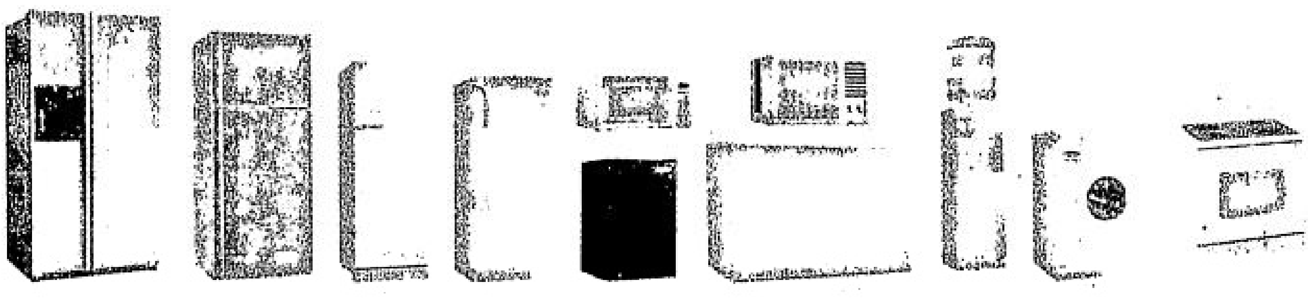

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Gloria hails Ani for 'proving no one's above the law'

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday credited Ombudsman Aniano Desierto for bringing to court her predecessor, Joseph Estrada, to answer charges of economic plunder and other criminal offenses.

She said history would judge Desierto well for proving that "no one is above the law."

In a speech delivered during the inauguration of the agency's new building on Agham Road in Quezon City, the President cited the role of the Ombudsman's Office in achieving a "government of laws and not of men."

She recalled how Desierto had once told her that "he did not want history to judge him badly, he wants history to judge him well."

"I think history rather than the lure of temporary wealth and temporary approval is a greater guide for what is the good that should be done," she said.

Desierto, who steps down in August after seven years at the helm of the 700-member agency said the employees of the anti-corruption office also deserved the presidential praises, adding that a conducive working environment worthy of the dignity of an independent constitutional office would be his most visible legacy.

Estradas told to answer contempt raps

By Volt Contreras

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has ordered jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada and his son, Jinggoy, to appear in court next Wednesday to answer a petition by the Plunderwatch civil society group asking the court to cite them for indirect contempt.

Also named respondents in the civil case are Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, and two of his former lawyers, Rene Saguisag and Raymond Fortun.

The anti-graft court's special division yesterday ordered the police to produce the Estrada father and son, who are detained at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, for the May 15 hearing.

But while Saguisag and Fortun were also ordered to make an appearance, the court spared Ejercito because of a pending manifestation invoking her parliamentary immunity.

Plunderwatch cited in its complaint the media statements of the Estradas, Saguisag and Fortun, and Ejercito's March 12 privilege speech, which allegedly constituted "deliberate, determined and vicious assaults against the Sandiganbayan, the Supreme Court and the entire justice system."

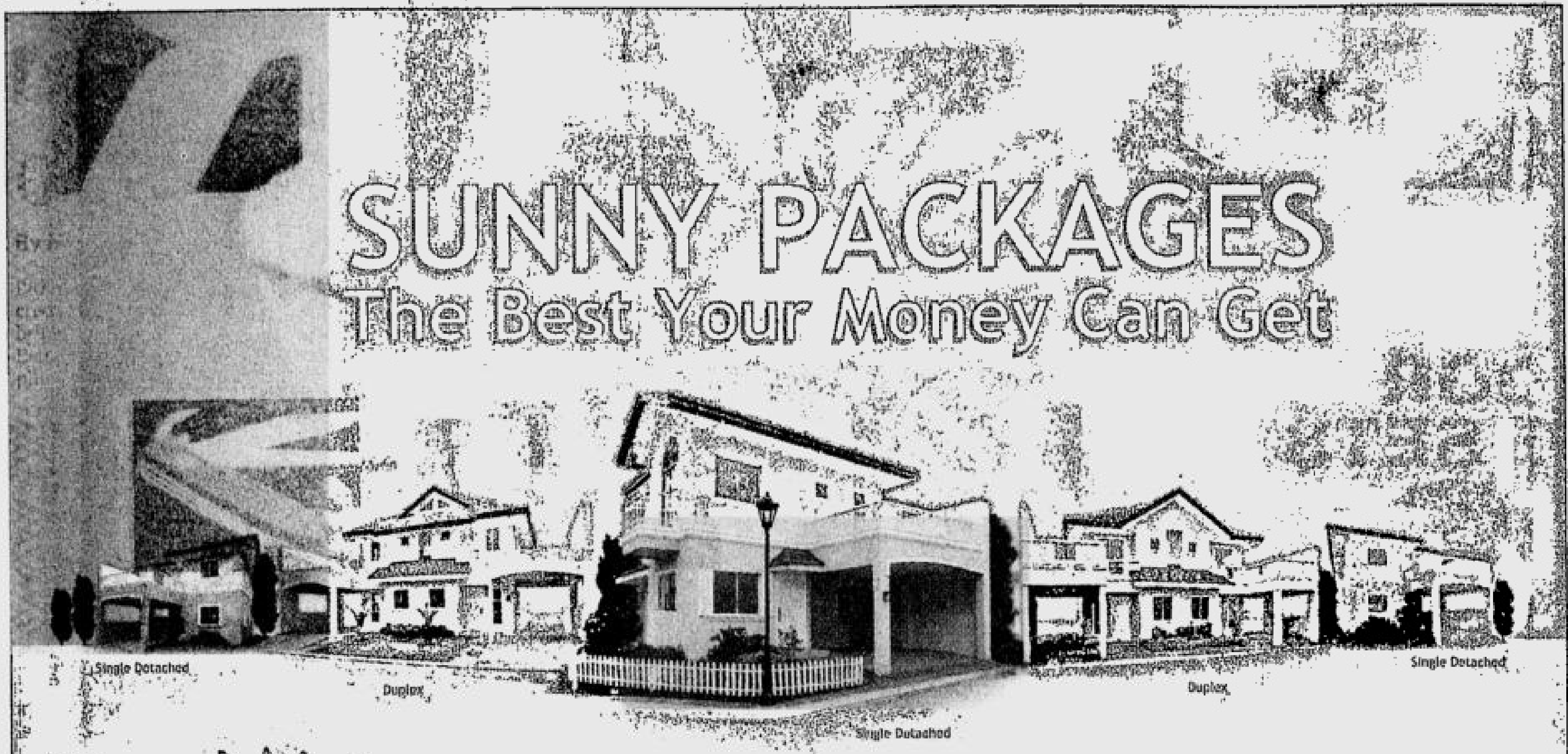
The group cited as evidence two articles from the INQUIRER quoting the respondents' tirades against the courts.

The reporters who wrote the articles were also served subpoenas. In a motion seeking the dismissal of the petition, Saguisag argued that Plunderwatch had no "personality" to initiate the court action, accusing the group of pursuing a "political agenda."

"What gives the petitioners a right to appear here? Normally, a private citizen wishing to speak here must do so through the public prosecutor," Saguisag said.

"Otherwise, private citizens all over the land may start filing petitions for contempt right and left without even seeking leave of court and be entertained, as has unfortunately happened here," he said.

The former senator said the court was not a political forum where private citizens or groups could "just go and dump some papers." The petition was signed by 21 Plunderwatch members, including Catholic priest Jose Dizon, media personality Ma-an Hontiveros, film director Behn Cervantes, and anti-crime crusader Dante Jimenez.



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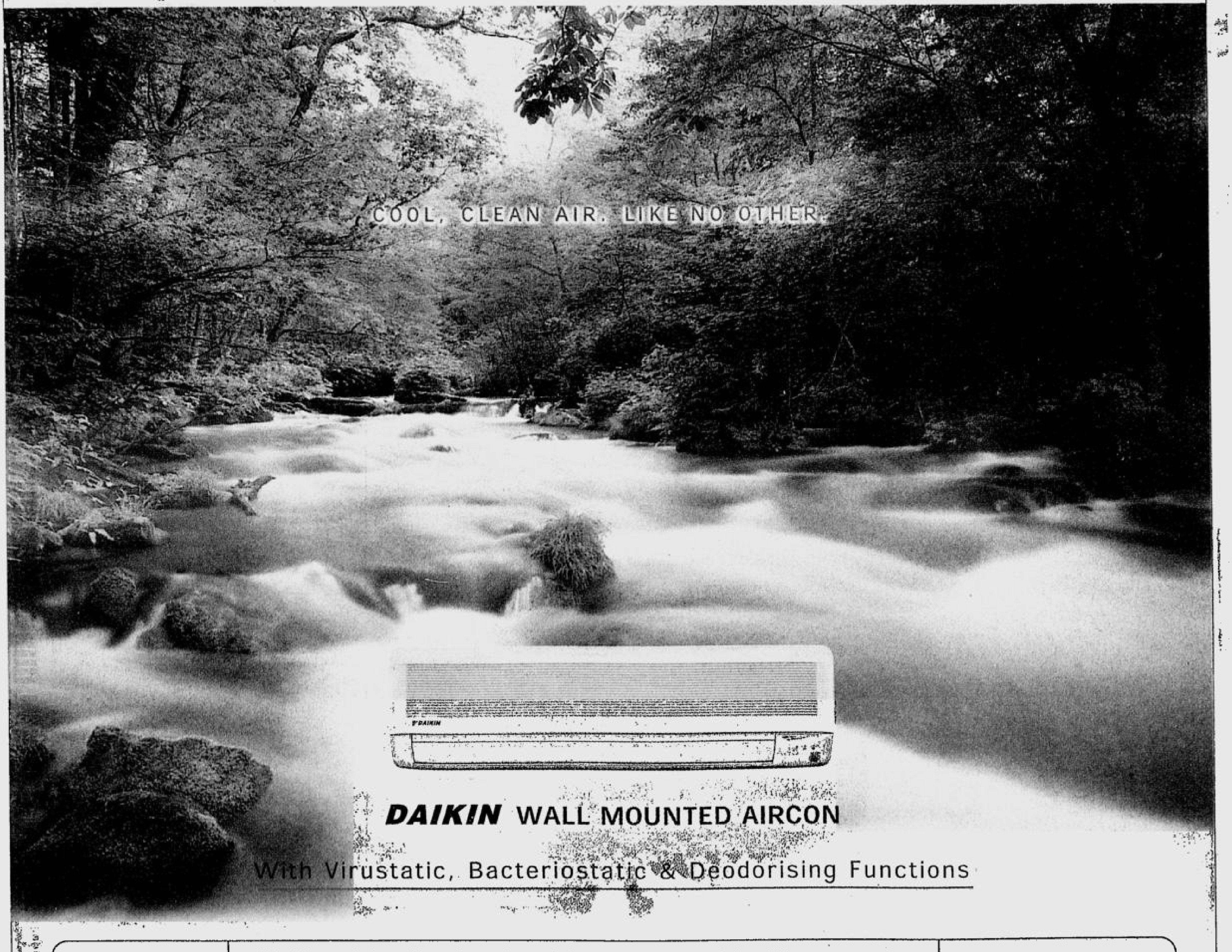

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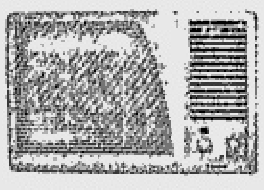

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Pipe bomb suspect held without bail

RENO, Nev.—Dressed in an orange jail jumpsuit, a 21-year-old student who the FBI says confessed to planting 18 pipe bombs across the US Midwest appeared in federal court on Wednesday on charges he waged a "domestic terror" spree that injured six people.

MUG shot of Helder

Luke Helder answered several questions from US District Judge Robert McQuaid, who then ordered him held without bail pending transfer to Iowa where he will stand trial.

Helder was captured on Tuesday following a high-speed chase outside Reno, Nevada, after FBI officials, acting on a tip from the suspect's father, put out an all-points bulletin seeking his arrest.

McQuaid denied a defense request that Helder be turned over to the custody of his parents, saying he believed the Wisconsin art student was both a flight risk and a possible danger to society.

"It is also apparent to me he suffers from some apparent mental health problems in regard to some comments about taking his own life," McQuaid said.

The FBI said on Wednesday that Helder had confessed to planting the pipe bombs, using a map to show officials exactly where he planted them in rural mailboxes across five states.

The Minnesota native has been charged with separate criminal counts relating to bombings in Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, and more charges are expected. He could face from 30 years to life in prison if convicted.

In official affidavits, FBI officials offered details of Helder's alleged bombing campaign, which was apparently sparked by anti-government sentiments and unraveled after his father grew concerned after receiving a letter from his son.

Officials also said Helder had been stopped three times by police during his cross-country spree, twice for speeding and once for not wearing a seat belt. All the stops were made before he was publicly identified as a suspect, however, and he was allowed to go free after each encounter.

In one case, Helder was stopped for speeding about 20 km outside of Albion, Nebraska, on May 4, the same day that a pipe bomb was found in a local mailbox.

Helder's arrest capped a nervous week across the US Midwest, where the mystery pipe bomb discoveries prompted authorities to warn of "domestic terrorism" and urge people to leave their mailboxes open.

The bombs—made with 15-cm pipes and nine-volt batteries—were left with typewritten anti-government letters, which promised more violence to get attention.

Eighteen of the devices were discovered deposited in rural mailboxes in states including Colorado and Texas over a five-day period. Federal officials said the remaining bombs were discovered in the car that Helder was driving at the time of his arrest.

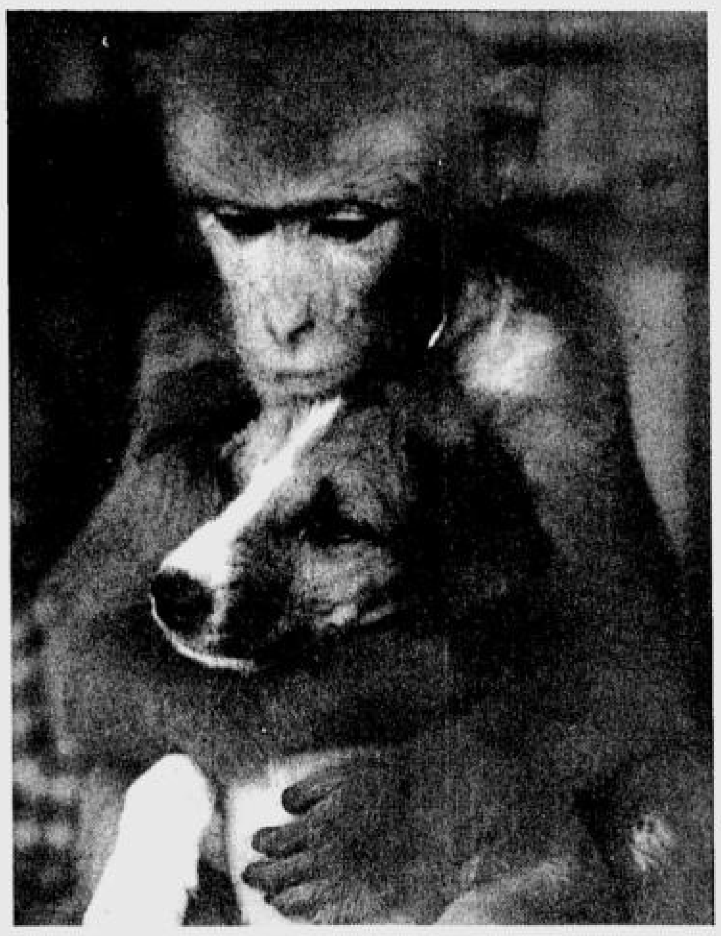
The FBI affidavits released on Wednesday described how Helder's father and friends contacted authorities after receiving letters and telephone calls from Helder allegedly hinting that he was behind the bombing.

In one communication, Helder allegedly said he was ready to die for his cause.

"I may have to blow myself away," the affidavit quoted him as saying, adding that a police search of his Wisconsin apartment had allegedly turned up bomb-making supplies.

Officials have offered few possible motives for the alleged bomb spree, other than to say that Helder—a well-liked student who played in a rock band called "Apathy"—apparently held anti-government views.

One letter left with the pipe bombs railed against government interference in citizen's lives. *Reuters*



LOVE IN A PET SHOP REUTERS

A female monkey fondly cuddles a puppy at a shop in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka, May 9. The pet monkey, bought from an animal trader, "adopted" the puppy recently and spends many happy hours hugging it.

Divers search for China jet 'black boxes'

DALIAN, China—Divers searched debris-filled waters Thursday for flight recorders that officials hope will explain the crash of a Chinese jetliner that plunged into the sea off China's northeast with 112 people aboard.

Officials said they hadn't ruled out any possible cause of the crash Tuesday night of the China Northern Airlines jet. The flight from Beijing crashed just short of its destination in Dalian after the pilot reported a fire.

"We have never had an accident like this where the plane crashed into the sea, so we lack experience. But we are doing our very best," aviation official Yang Yuanyuan said at a news conference.

Searchers have found 66 bodies but identified only five victims, the officials said. They said most of the bodies were in pieces and were so badly damaged by the crash that even the gender of seven victims couldn't be determined. *AP*

Rumsfeld kills Army's Crusader gun

WASHINGTON—US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday canceled the Army's next-generation, $11-billion Crusader artillery gun, in the Bush administration's most controversial move to hone US forces for 21st century threats.

On Capitol Hill, the decision drew immediate fire, notably from lawmakers in whose states the 155mm self-propelled howitzer and its components are built by United Defense Industries Inc.

Rumsfeld said the decision was not about any one weapon system but about "a strategy of warfare—a strategy that drives the choices that we must make about how best to prepare our total forces for the future."

The Crusader has come to exemplify how hard it is to kill a major weapons program once it has gained support in Congress.

Critics say the 40-ton Crusader—which has been in technology development since 1994—is too heavy for the lighter, more rapidly deployable forces being crafted to cope with such threats as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and cyberwarfare.

Rumsfeld said he was confident of persuading Congress to replace the Crusader, possibly with future satellite-guided artillery shells digitally linked to intelligence sensors. *Reuters*

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Pakistan cracks down after blast

ISLAMABAD—Pakistani police have detained some 23 members of extremists groups with suspected links to al-Qaida in response to a suicide bombing which killed 11 French nationals, sources said Thursday.

Senior interior ministry officials said the crackdown started overnight under a tough new plan to end a wave of terrorist violence which culminated in Wednesday's bloody car bombing outside the Sheraton Hotel.

"This crackdown is focused and we are picking up people who are suspected to have links with some international terrorists groups," a senior interior ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

"The operation is being conducted after thorough deliberations and tight scrutiny," he said.

He said that after the arrest of suspected al-Qaida members in Faisalabad and Lahore in March, security agencies had prepared a list of people who were believed to have provided them shelter.

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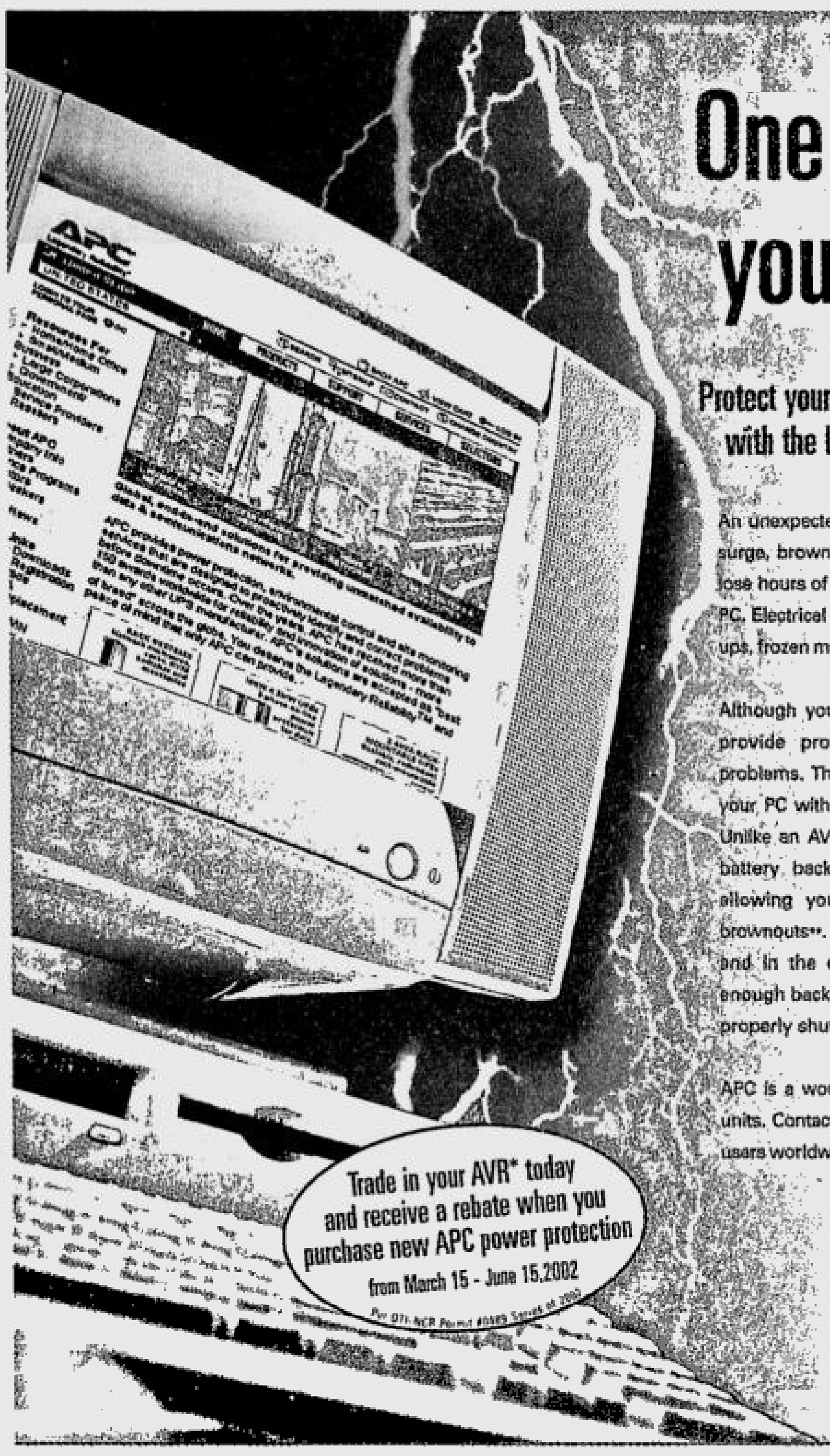

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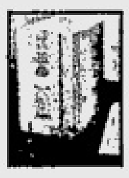

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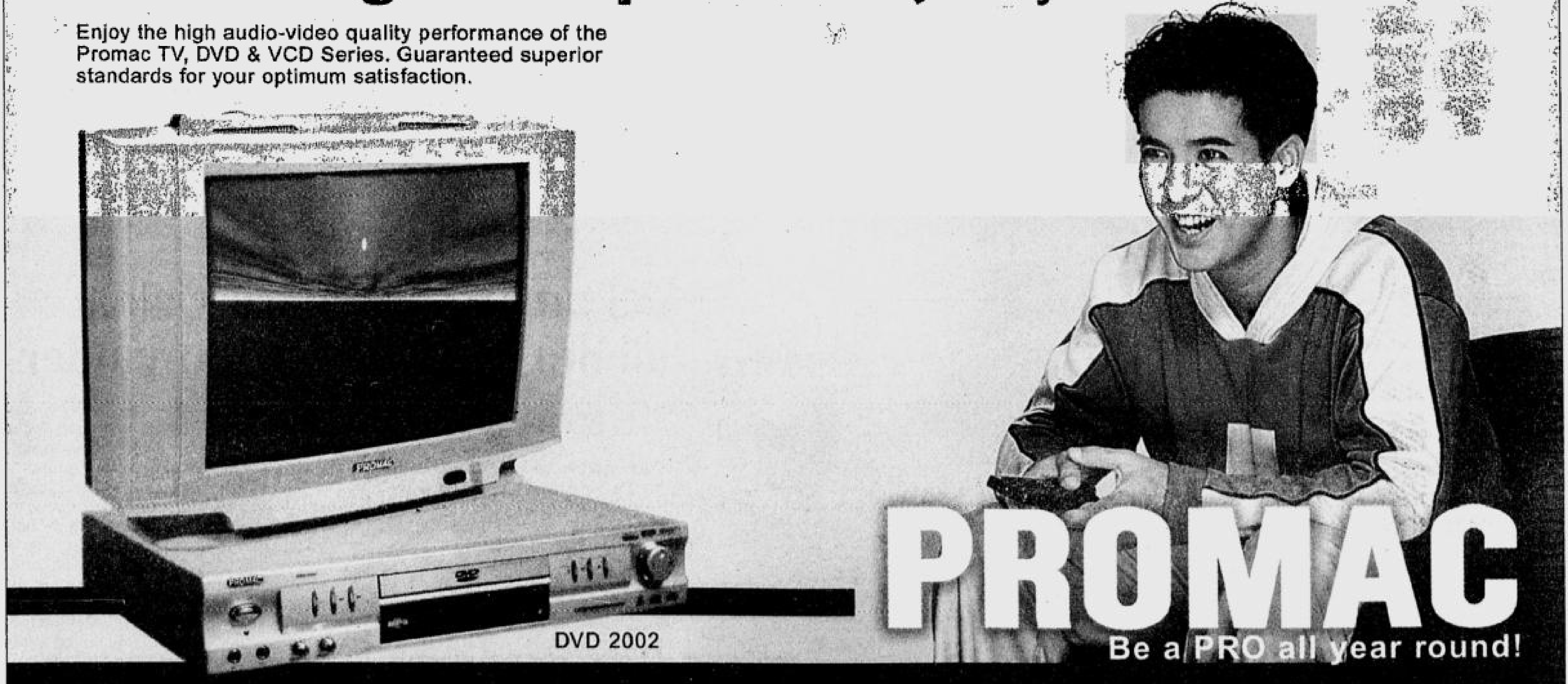

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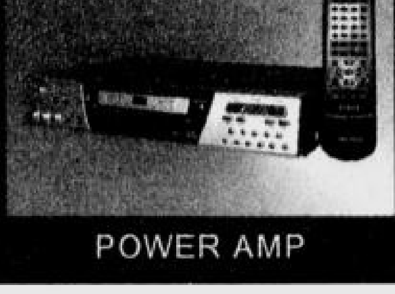

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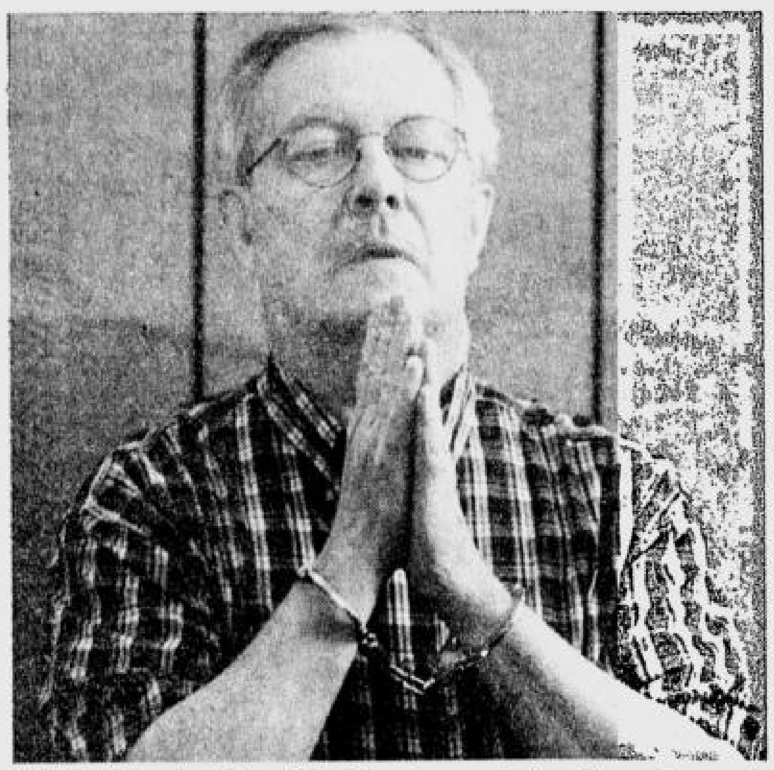

CATHOLIC priest Ronald H. Paquin seen during his arraignment at the Haverhill District Court, May 8, in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Paquin has been charged with one count of rape of a child under 16. REUTERS

Cardinal testifies in sex case

BOSTON—Boston's Cardinal Bernard Law, the senior US prelate, on Wednesday defended his decision to move a priest accused of serial child sexual abuse from one parish to another saying he had received "medical assurance" that it was safe to do so.

Law was giving sworn testimony in connection with a civil suit brought by 86 people who accuse Law and the Boston Archdiocese of negligence in handling Father John Geoghan, a defrocked Roman Catholic priest who has been convicted of child molestation.

It was the first time Law has testified since the Geoghan case triggered a crisis over pedophile priests that has shaken the Roman Catholic Church to its core and sent shock waves all the way to the Vatican.

Law has been accused of protecting priests and the Church at the expense of abused children. He has rejected repeated calls that he resign over his handling of the scandal.

Questioned about his role in the case of Geoghan, accused of sexually molesting 130 people during his 30 years as a Boston priest, Law repeatedly struggled to recall specific events, but said he was sure any decisions were based on sound medical advice.

A lawyer for Geoghan's alleged victims later accused the Cardinal, who leads 2.1 million Catholics in the nation's fourth largest diocese, of being evasive and "hiding a culture of darkness."

The extraordinary testimony was ordered by a judge after the archdiocese last week unexpectedly backed out of a $15- to $30-million settlement in the civil case.

According to a copy of the court transcript, Law, answering questions about a letter dated Oct. 31, 1984, informing Geoghan that he had been appointed vicar of a Boston parish, said, "I'm sure that that medical assurance was given."

"Whether it was subsequently put in writing and in an earlier form given orally, I cannot say, but I can say, without any shadow of a doubt, that this letter would never have been put before me for signature had we not had the assurance of someone competent to give that assurance that this assignment was safe."

Geoghan's new assignment came after he was removed from another parish becaus he had been accused of improper behavior with children.

Law has maintained ever since the controversy came to light in January that he acted the way he did on medical advice and was not aware of the danger the priest posed to children. His testimony on Wednesday differed little from previous comments.

Law, the top US Catholic leader and considered close to the Pope, has been under fire since court documents released in the Geoghan case showed he was aware of Geoghan's problems but failed to keep him away from children.

Calls for his resignation grew louder when new documents showed he acted the same way in the case of Father Paul Shanley, who is charged with three counts of child rape.

As if to highlight the issue, while Law was testifying in the Geoghan case, another priest, Father Ronald Paquin, was arraigned in Essex County and charged with one count of rape of a child under 16. Paquin pleaded not guilty and bail was set at $100,000. *Reuters*

Cloned babies on their way, says Italian fertility expert

ROME—The Italian fertility expert whose avowed aim is to create the first human clone, said on Wednesday three women were pregnant with clones, but complained that the babies would be viewed as freaks by a hostile society.

Severino Antinori called himself the "cultural and scientific coordinator" of the top secret cloning projects, and said one of the pregnancies was in the 10th week, one in the seventh and one in the sixth.

"One thing is certain, in the country where these babies will be born, if the climate of persecution does not change . . . at the first birth everyone will say 'This is a monster,'" the white-haired Antinori told a news conference.

He denied that he was specifically in charge of any of the three pregnancy cases and declined to say where the women were, indicating only that one of the trio lived in an Islamic nation.

Never shy of courting controversy, Antinori caused alarm in the scientific community, outrage in religious circles and confusion for law makers when he announced more than a year ago his desire to clone humans to help infertile couples.

Exiled from the wider scientific community for his refusal to abandon his research, Antinori said some 40 people were involved in the project across 18 countries.

"I am not isolated. There is fear to talk about these things. There is a criminalization of my activities," he said.

Antinori said the women, who had undergone successful ultrasound screenings in recent weeks, were all volunteers who had paid nothing to become pregnant with clones.

However, a former colleague of Antinori cast doubt on the pregnancy claims on Wednesday, saying that none of the Italian doctor's original team was participating.

"I don't believe what he has said," Panos Zavos told the English language daily Cyprus Mail. Zavos is continuing his own cloning research for childless couples.

Scientists have condemned human cloning as irresponsible because of the risk of deformities and miscarriage.

The United Nations set up a panel last year aimed at drafting an international treaty to outlaw the cloning of human beings, but Antinori insisted that many of his colleagues were continuing his research underground.

Antinori went on to accuse US President George W. Bush of practicing "ethical Talibanism" because of the strong stance he has taken against cloning experiments.

"The West and Europe simply aren't realistic in wanting to ban cloning. Bush wants to put me and other researchers under the burka," fumed the bronzed professor.

"They have to understand—reproduction, sex, everything linked to privacy cannot be meddled with by the State."

Antinori gained fame after helping a 62-year-old women become a mother using a donated egg in the early 1990s and he told Wednesday's news conference that one thousand babies had now been born using his fertility treatment.

"The (cloning) project will give millions of people the chance to exercise their ancestoral right to reproduce," he said on Wednesday. *Reuters*

HARD LABOR AT 5 AFP

Anna, aged 5, poses with her hammer at the family stone-smashing business on the outskirts of Lusaka, Zambia, May 8, as heads of state and government gather in New York for the UN's children summit. Anna has been smashing stones from the age of one and has never been to school. *(See story on page 1)*

Dutch police hold activist in pol's slay

THE HAGUE—A 32-year-old animal rights activist was remanded in custody on Wednesday on charges of murdering Dutch far-right leader Pim Fortuyn, a court spokesperson said.

Under Dutch law, he will not be formally charged until his next court appearance but prosecutors said he would be brought to trial for murder and possession of an illegal weapon.

The court has refused to identify the suspect but local press have reported he is Volkert van der Graaf, a vegan activist opposed to fur- and factory farming.

Prosecutors said he was the lone gunman who on Monday shot the outspoken, anti-immigrant Fortuyn, expected to lead his parties into make wide gains in national elections next week.

It was thought to have been the first political assassination in the traditionally liberal Netherlands since the 17th century, and sent shock waves across Dutch society.

But De Vokskrant paper reported Wednesday that van der Graaf and his Milieu Offensief (Environmental Offensive) group had also been linked to the murder of a municipal environmental official in Nunspeet in the central Netherlands.

"The judge felt there were sufficient grounds to keep the suspect in custody," court spokesperson Mercedes Grootscholten said. *AFP*

RUSSIAN soldiers march along Moscow's Red Square during the military parade celebrating the 57th Victory Day May 9. AFP

Russian 'official' history of WWII questioned

MOSCOW—Amid the tide of patriotism sweeping across Russia in the run-up to Thursday's celebration of Victory Day, a small number of activists have been calling for a more balanced look at Soviet actions during World War II, including some ugly aspects that were swept under the rug for decades.

"The war is one of the most mythologized parts of our lives," said Yelena Zhemkova, executive director of the Memorial human rights group. "We need to take a fresh look at what happened."

Zhemkova said the Red Army's plunder of Eastern Europe as it advanced on the retreating Nazi forces in 1944-45 is one of the great untold stories of the war—at least in Russia, where recent western books about Soviet atrocities have not been published.

"For years, we were taught that Soviet soldiers 'liberated' Poland and other countries," she said. "People would be shocked if they knew what happened . . . Hundreds of babies were born as a result of rapes in Germany. No one ever talks about that."

There is no doubt that the Soviet Union made enormous sacrifices during World War II, also known here as the Great Patriotic War. An estimated 27 million Soviet citizens were killed in the conflict, the biggest loss of any country. Entire populations were uprooted, and many towns and cities were razed to the ground.

On Victory Day, which marks the defeat of Nazi Germany, the Russian military holds a massive parade in Red Square. Thousands of WWII veterans, men and women alike, proudly display their war medals and reminisce about their fallen comrades.

That sense of national pride is still very much alive 57 years after the conflict ended, even as the number of surviving veterans shrinks yearly.

But a handful of Russians are pushing for a reexamination of the war in light of new information and documentary evidence. They are drawing attention to Soviet actions that were covered up, or simply ignored, in official histories of the conflict.

Generations have been taught that the war started on June 22, 1941, when Nazi forces invaded the Soviet Union—glossing over the secret Nazi-Soviet pact of 1939, in which the two sides agreed not to attack one another and, in a secret addendum, to partition Poland. *AP*

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Afghan war against al-Qaida 'all but over,' says commander

BAGRAM, Afghanistan—The war against al-Qaida and Taliban fighters inside Afghanistan is "all but won" and offensive operations by the US-led coalition are grinding down as a result, the top British commander in the coalition said Wednesday.

"We believe we're on the right way, that the fight against (the al-Qaida and Taliban) in Afghanistan is all but won," Brig. Roger Lane said at Bagram air base, according to a pool report. "They're not showing a predisposition to reorganize and regroup to mount offensive operations against us."

A 1,000-man British-led force began sweeping on foot through southeastern Afghanistan on Friday to track down small groups of al-Qaida or Taliban fighters and search caves and bunkers they may have once used. The mission, dubbed Operation Snipe, is taking place in an undisclosed area that military officials say has never been searched by coalition troops.

"Because as yet we have not come into contact with the enemy per se, I expect over the next few days that offensive operations akin to Operation Snipe will start coming to an end," Lane said.

The last major battles against al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts took place in March during Operation Anaconda in eastern Afghanistan's Shah-e-Kot mountains. The 12-day assault marked the largest US ground operation of the war. Since then, US officials say enemy fighters have dispersed into small groups.

"I think the general assessment is that in substantial parts of the country the need for offensive operations is beginning to dwindle and that they will be completed in a matter of weeks rather than months," Lane said.

Ensuring stability in Afghanistan in the long-term would be the responsibility of an Afghan national Army, not the thousands of foreign soldiers currently deployed in the country, he added.

"We're not going to be able to find and destroy every last bunker and terrorist," Lane said. "But we can get to a point where . . . initially the local Afghan militia forces can take control and then in time as the development of the Afghan national Army takes some form, that they will . . . then become responsible for their territorial sovereignty and security."

Afghan authorities are hoping to create a 100,000-man army with border guards and a police force, but funding has been a major problem. Last month, the first 600 Afghan soldiers for the new army graduated from a six-week training course given by international peacekeepers. *AP*

Iran, US held secret talks, says report

TEHRAN—The head of Iran's parliamentary foreign affairs committee has said Iran, contrary to official denials, had been holding secret talks with arch-enemy the United States, the official IRNA news agency said on Wednesday.

"About the behind-the-scenes negotiations with American officials, contrary to what Iran's Foreign Ministry has announced, I have information that these negotiations were carried out," IRNA quoted Mohsen Mirdamadi as saying.

In Washington, the US state department denied it had held secret talks with Iran, but its spokesperson Richard Boucher said officials from the two countries "probably" talked informally on the sidelines of various multilateral meetings.

At on such meeting, last year's conference on Afghanistan in Germany, they had actually done so, he said.

Many Iranian reformists have called for negotiations with Washington to ward off possible US action against the Islamic Republic, which President George W. Bush has called part of an "axis of evil."

Mirdamadi, a leading reformist parliamentarian allied to President Mohammad Khatami and himself a former US hostage-taker, said a consensus should be reached on Iran's stance on negotiations if Tehran were not to lose out.

An Iranian government spokesperson denied there had been any official talks but declined to rule out unofficial contacts. *Reuters*

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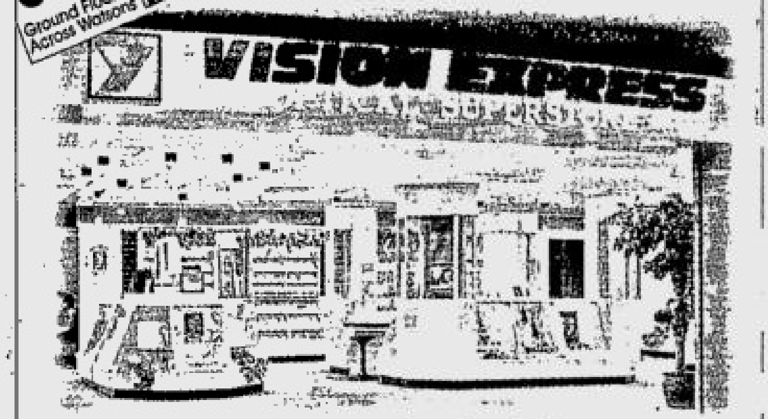

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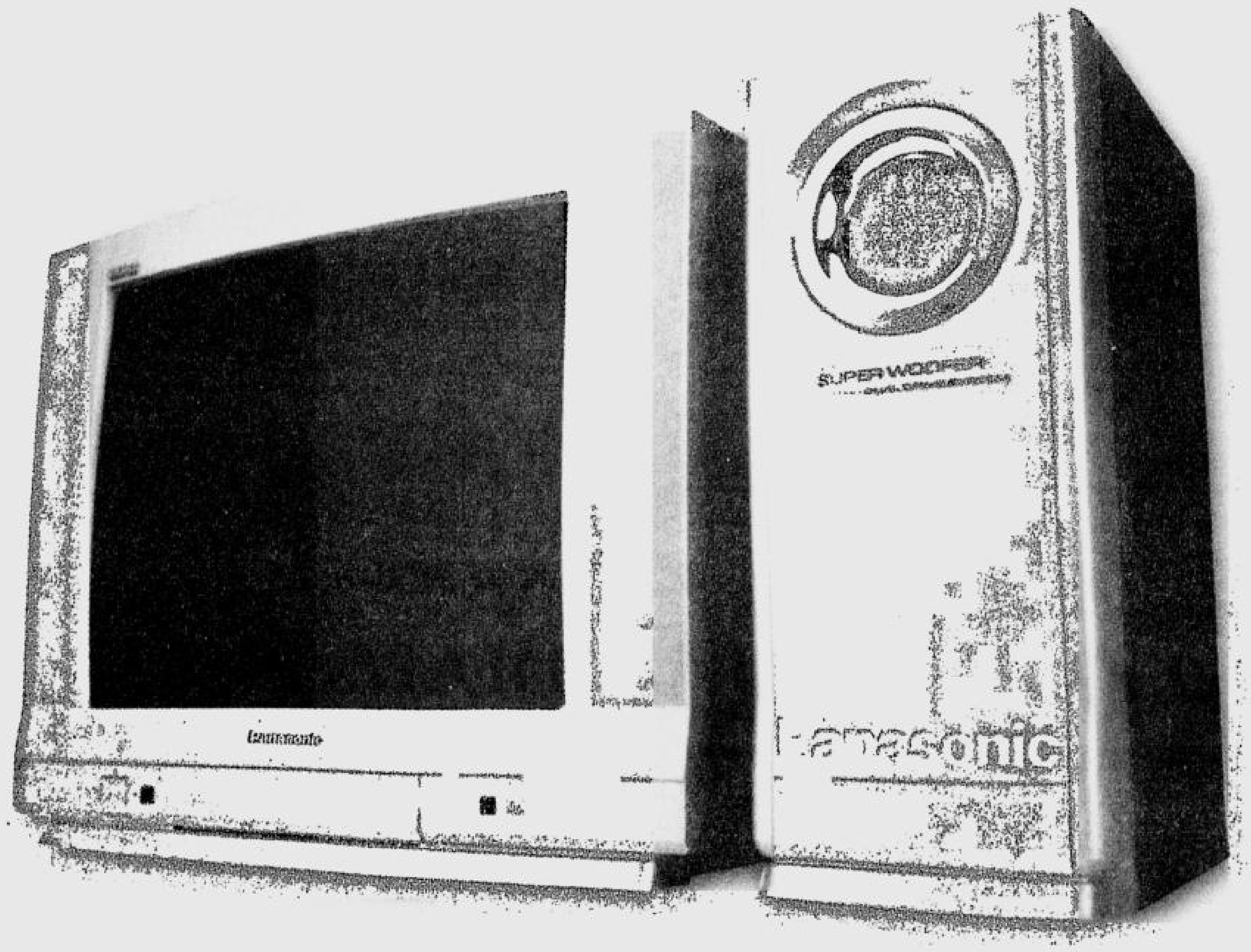

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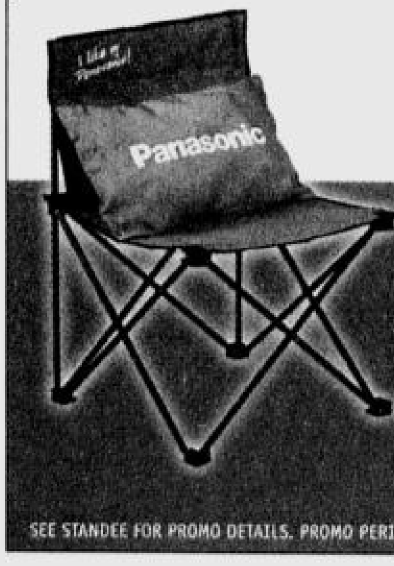

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Davao City power firm applies for hike in electricity rates

DAVAO CITY—The Davao Light and Power Co. has applied for a P0.24 per kilowatt-hour rate increase in its electricity rates with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) allegedly to meet rising costs of operations.

Alfonso Aboitiz, executive vice president and chief operating officer, said the company doesn't want to increase its rates, but is forced to do so because it has to sustain its operations.

The rate increase would also help the company ensure better services, according to Aboitiz.

The DLPC, which serves more than 200,000 customers in Davao City and three areas in Davao del Norte, is among the 140 power utilities applying for increases in their electricity rates.

The ERC has scheduled the hearings for these rate increase petitions on May 16 and 17.

Aboitiz said the firm would also list down the rates that it collects from consumers to make its billing more transparent to the public.

He said the company is planning to do this by June 26. He described this process as unbundling.

Aboitiz said the 24-centavo increase in its electricity rates would be reflected in what he described as the Cross Subsidy Unbundled Rate Component.

The unbundled rate structure has seven components: Distribution Charge, Supply Charge (Retail), Supply Charge (Metering), Cross Subsidy, Generation Charge, Transmission Charge and Universal Charge.

"We will assure that the increase would be reflected in the Cross Subsidy Component and not distributed (hidden) in any of the components," he said.

However, Aboitiz said the increase would not have minimal effects on the bills of consumers. The last time that the DLPC increased its rate was in 1992.

"I know this is very hard for us . . . and the consumers. We understand clearly that a rate increase at this time of economic hardship is unpopular. We are trying to hold down any rate increase for the last (several) years," Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz said he would expect protests from customers. But he said he would be holding a dialogue with them.

If approved, residential clients consuming about 150 kilowatt-hours per month would pay an additional P36 or 7.09 percent.

In Iligan City, civic leader Miguel Valbuena is asking the Senate to look into the power cost adjustment collected by the country's power producers.

Valbuena said that for his December 2001 electric bill, the Iligan Light and Power Inc. (ILPI) collected a basic charge of P1,077 but the PCA was P1,639.

In his January and February electric bills, the PCA was 100 percent more than the basic charges.

He said that the high cost of energy is one of the reasons Iligan industries have either downgraded or stopped operations there.

The rate increase sought by the DLPC comes amid protests over the continued collection of the power purchase adjustment or PPA which some groups said makes up 70 percent of the electric bills of consumers.

The President has announced the suspension of the PPA but leftist groups are demanding that she scrap it outright. ***Ayan Mellejor, Joel Escovilla and Christine Godinez-Ortega, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Cops consider inside job in robbery-slaying

DUMAGUETE CITY—Police have started looking into the possibility that the robbery and killing of four government workers in Bayawan City on Tuesday was an inside job.

Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, Negros Oriental police director, said circumstances leading to the death of the four government workers indicated that the robbers killed the employees because they knew them.

He said their investigation showed that despite not having offered any resistance, the robbers went on to kill the victims, who all died of gunshot wounds in the head.

"That is why," Bolodo said, "(we) have reasons to consider the inside job angle."

But Bolodo said that the investigators did not discount the angle that it was a plain highway robbery.

Bolodo said they were pinning their hope on at least three witnesses who could describe the faces of the robbers who killed four employees of the municipality of Sta. Catalina town.

He however said that the sketches of the suspects could not be made available immediately as cartographers from the National Bureau of Investigation regional office in Cebu City were arriving Friday.

The witnesses, Bolodo said, saw the suspects at Sitio Maninihon, Barangay Caranoche in Bayawan City, as they were waiting for the L-300 van to pass by on its way to Sta. Catalina, some eight kilometers from the Land Bank Bayawan branch.

While there were no actual witnesses to the killing in the isolated sugarcane field, some children heard gunfire about 650 meters away, Bolodo said.

Bolodo said he believed that the suspects were still in the vicinity, as no soldier manning the several checkpoints established after the killing reported having seen the suspects.

The suspects boarded a black Honda TMX 155 motorcycle and a blue Kawasaki motorcycle. They were holding a duffel bag, which contained the P372,000 cash intended for the town's payroll. ***Alex Pal and Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau***

VAL HANDUMON

AT HOME

A Badjao home in Taluksangay, Zamboanga City doesn't have the luxuries of urban living but is able to sustain the tribe's lifestyle with the most basic of necessities—firewood, salt, dried fish, pots, cooking oil.

Solons seek probe of tobacco funds delay

VIGAN CITY—The seven congressmen of the four Virginia tobacco producing provinces in the Ilocos region and Cordillera are asking for an investigation of the processing of tobacco excise tax (Republic Act 7171) allocations following the delay in the fund's release.

"In the past years since the law took effect, it has been an agonizing experience for the beneficiaries to wait for the release of their shares," a resolution signed by the congressmen said. "To date, funds, which should have been released last year, have yet to be released."

The resolution was signed by Representatives Eric Singson and Salacnib Baterina (Ilocos Sur); Roque Ablan Jr. and Imee Marcos (Ilocos Norte); Manuel Ortega and Tomas Dumpit (La Union); and Luis Bersamin Jr. (Abra).

"We wanted to know the cause of the delays of release because as provided by law, the funds subject for release for an incumbent year are those taxes collected in the previous year that the government had already collected. These have been set aside for release to the beneficiaries," Singson told the INQUIRER.

RA 7171 is a law that sets aside 15 percent of the excise taxes collected from locally manufactured Virginia type cigarettes for distribution to Virginia tobacco producing provinces.

According to the resolution, the law mandates the Department of Budget and Management to release the share from RA 7171 directly to the provincial governments concerned on a quarterly basis. The DBM would issue an "advice of allotment and cash allocation."

Earlier, the mayors of Ilocos Sur passed a resolution asking President Macapagal-Arroyo to help facilitate the immediate release of their RA 7171 shares.

The mayors said the fund, if released regularly and promptly, could improve the basic services in their towns as RA 7171 shares are used to fund local government projects.

The Ilocos and Cordillera representatives are asking the House of Representatives to investigate the manner of release of the funds under the annual General Appropriations Act.

"What the DBM had promised is half of the share of the four Virginia tobacco producing provinces for 2001 and we are already in 2002. We should be receiving our 2002 shares now," Singson said.

At least P2.4 billion has been appropriated for the four provinces in 2001. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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'Kayos' downs 70 in Talisay City

BACOLOD CITY—Seventy residents, mostly children from Hacienda San Isidro, Barangay Concepcion, Talisay City, were downed by food poisoning Wednesday after eating porridge served at their Catholic chapel where they were attending activities in preparation for the Flores de Mayo.

One of the parents, Zenaida Linaja, said the porridge contained a poisonous wild root crop called *kayos* that was mixed with *balinghoy* (cassava). It was served to the congregation, composed mostly of children four years old and above, about 4 p.m.

Less than an hour later, all those who had eaten the porridge complained of dizziness, nausea or stomachache.

Six of the victims had to be confined at the hospital while the rest were treated as outpatients. Many of them had to be administered dextrose.

Linaja said the *kayos*, which looks like an enlarged cassava, was apparently not prepared very well to remove the poison from the root crop.

Kayos has to be soaked in water for 24-hours or for three days to remove the poison. One can be sure it is safe for eating when parasites in the water start to feast on it. It also has to be sliced thinly and spread to dry before cooking, according to Winnie Dueño, a resident here who has long been preparing *kayos*. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol region, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI33° Lo 24°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/05/10/02

ROUNDUP

Quake hits Negros

BACOLOD CITY—An Intensity 3 earthquake was felt in Negros Occidental at 7:42 a.m. on Wednesday. Its epicenter was located 10.8 degrees north, 123.1 degrees east and 17 kilometers southwest of Cadiz City. The earthquake was felt in Bacolod City and northern Negros for about 3 to 5 seconds. The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said the tremor was tectonic in origin, caused by the movement of rock formations in the northern Negros Island fault. No damage was reported.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Help from rebels

BACOLOD CITY—Police got help from the breakaway Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) when the rebel group alerted the 2nd Provincial Mobile Group on the cutting of natural-grown trees in the Northern Negros Forest Reserve in Sitio Baligwan, Barangay Patag, Silay City, Negros Occidental. With the information, police were able to identify and arrest the two persons who had cut about 3,000 board feet of white *lawaan* from the forest reserve. RPA-ABB leader Carapali Lualhati earlier offered his group's help to Gov. Joseph Marañon in environmental concerns.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bloody wedding

BACOLOD CITY—A wedding anniversary party on Saturday in a village in La Castellana, Negros Occidental turned bloody and left two persons killed and four others injured. The melee started when one of the guests, Felix Escorial, 52, got drunk and started hacking without provocation four persons. Escorial was killed when he was hacked by Agaton Amolo, the father of one of the injured. Police said Escorial injured Beltran de la Torre, Jonifer Amolo and his mother, Eleuteria, and Jonifer's 9-year-old nephew, Joey. Agaton landed in jail and is now facing homicide charges because, in the melee, he reportedly also hacked to death another guest, Alex Dayaday.

Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau

Bandit leader slain

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Soldiers killed the leader of a bandit group operating in Sarangani province during an encounter in a remote village in Malapatan town on Sunday evening. A report reaching the 601st Infantry Brigade headquarters here identified the slain bandit leader as Commander Bawing Jamuda alias Tomatic. The report said elements of the 27th Infantry Battalion under T/Sgt. Jessie Soriano were patrolling Sitio Patag, Barangay Sapu Padidu when they chanced upon the bandits, blamed for a series of cattle rustling and extortion in the town. A 25-minute encounter ensued resulting in Jamuda's death.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Remains found

COTABATO CITY—Police recovered on Sunday the remains of three persons believed to be victims of summary execution in Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao. Insp. Bona Tambokan, Shariff Aguak police chief, said residents of Barangay Iganagampong discovered in a shallow grave the decomposing remains of three male persons. Tambokan believed the victims were killed somewhere and their bodies dumped in Barangay Iganagampong. The three had gunshot wounds in the head and body. Their hands and feet were tied.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hundred Islands management

LINGAYEN, Pangasinan—Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said the management of the Hundred Islands National Park should be transferred from the Philippine Tourism Authority to the Pangasinan provincial government to better address its problems. Gordon, who was guest of the Grand Pista'y Dayat (sea festival) last week, said the local government must be given a chance to manage the park. "Local governments must not depend on the national government in operating their resources, but must solve the problems and come up with their own programs to promote the local tourism industry," Gordon said.

Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

San Miguel reawakens

THE SAN MIGUEL de Mayumo Foundation Inc. composed of legitimately-born, married-to, or whose ancestors are from San Miguel, has been formed to reawaken the townspeople of San Miguel, Bulacan. The baptismal registry books in the century-old church became the answer in tracing the roots of San Migueleños. A concert titled "Alay Pamana kay San Miguel" is set on June 8 at 4:30 p.m. inside the San Miguel Church which will feature pianists Raul Sunico and Priscilla de la Fuente Sison, soprano Rachelle Gerondias and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz.

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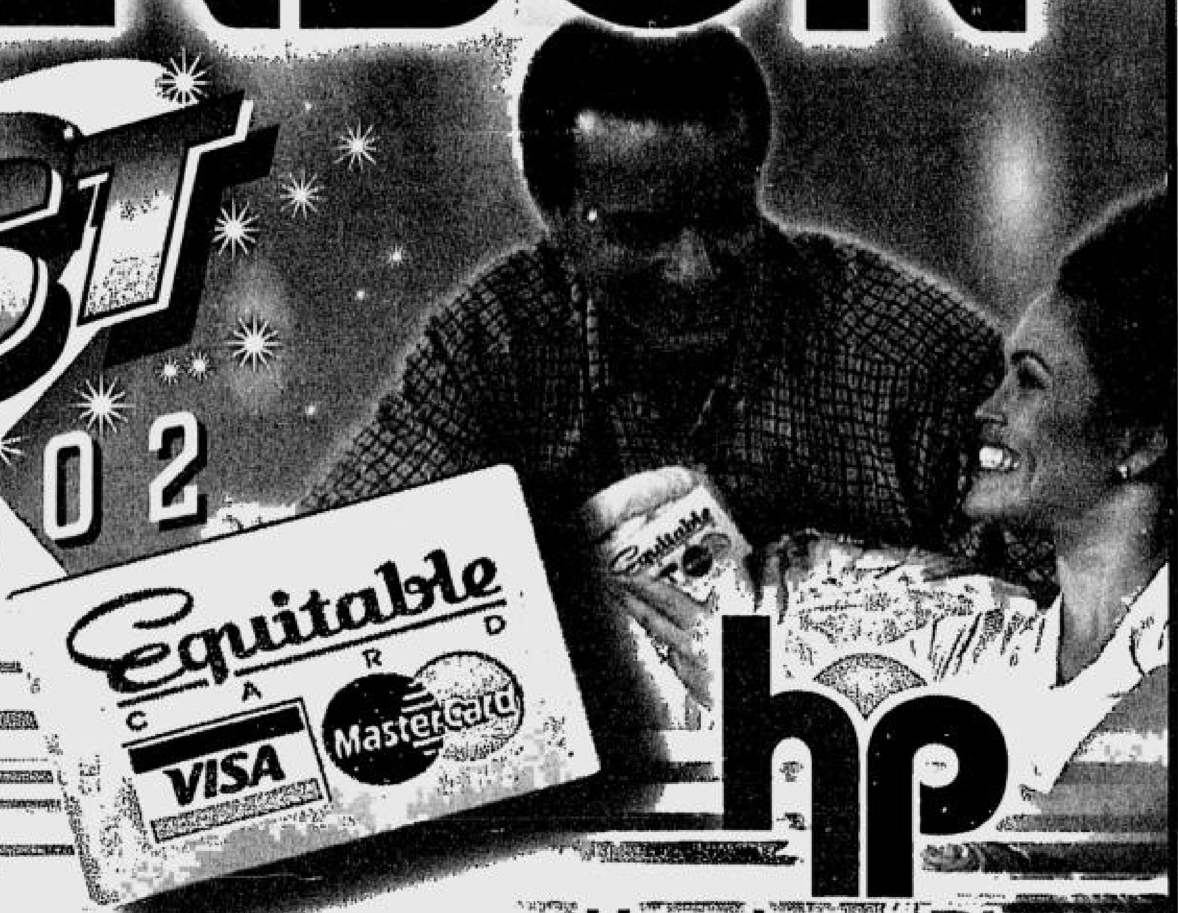

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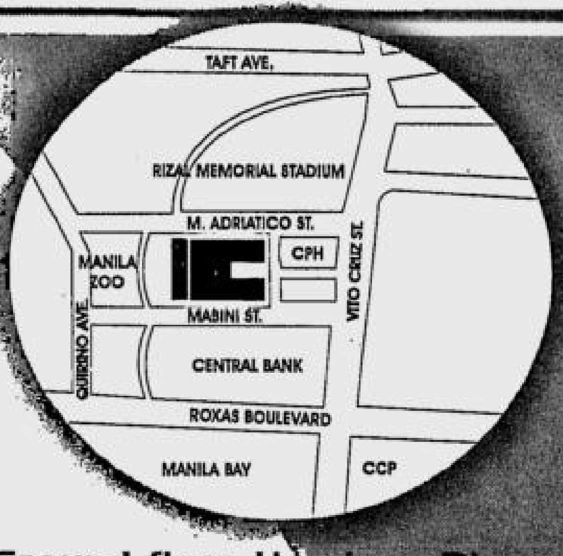

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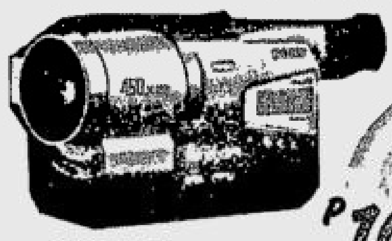

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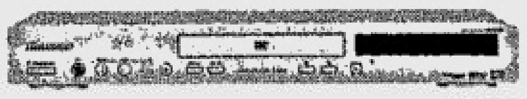

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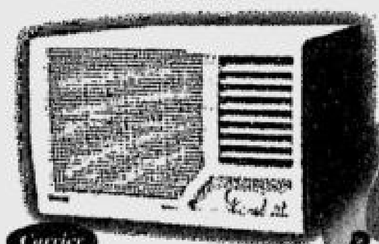

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Solons want ₱3-B more pork

From page A1

district should be at par with the other districts."

P3 billion

Pichay explained that while the DA's and DAR's infrastructure budgets belonged to the two departments, the DPWH was still the implementing agency.

He said tapping these budgets would not mean that congressmen would be taking the infrastructure funds from the two departments. "It will still be the same," he said. "The net effect will be that the bureaucracy will be shortened and they will still have their projects."

He also said agriculture and agrarian reform officials had asked congressmen to identify the projects, anyway. And because of bureaucratic requirements, he said, implementation of the two departments' infrastructure projects would not begin until almost midyear.

Among these projects are farm-to-market roads and irrigation systems.

Equalization fund

Pichay said the equalization fund would be given to congressional districts that were at a disadvantage under the present sharing scheme for the DPWH infrastructure fund.

These districts are the ones that have mostly foreign-assisted but no locally funded projects.

Under the present scheme, the infrastructure fund is divided on the basis of equal sharing, 25 percent; population density, 20 percent; and infrastructure scarcity, 55 percent. On top of these locally funded projects, the foreign-assisted projects are included in the share.

But Alternative Scheme 6, which has been approved by the public works committee, calls for 100-percent equal sharing regardless of population density and infrastructure scarcity.

Foreign-assisted projects are not included.

A number of congressmen have complained about the present system. Failon, for example, said his district was given only P3 million for locally funded projects because it had a big foreign-assisted project for the renovation of San Juanico Bridge.

Failon said this was unfair because other people apart from those in his district were using the bridge.

He has no infrastructure project to show his constituents.

Pichay said congressmen should not be criticized for fighting for infrastructure projects for their districts. He said these projects were "really (the congressmen's) showcase, the tangible proof of their performance to their constituents."

"It will give them enough to show their constituents," he said.

'Victory for consumers' means ₱15-B Napocor loss

From page A1

of the PPA was triggered by the hefty increase in electric bills of many consumers, mostly in Metro Manila.

Consumers complained that the PPA charge imposed by both Napocor and Meralco jacked up by about 100 percent their electric bills, the other major component of which is the so-called basic rate charged by Meralco.

In a news briefing on Thursday, Energy Secretary Vince Perez said that as a result of the President's directive, Napocor was pegging at P.40/kwh its PPA charge to distribution utilities.

Napocor imposed a PPA charge to distribution utilities as a result of changes in the cost of electricity it buys from independent power producers.

Meralco and other distribution utilities that buy power from Napocor, in turn, pass on this PPA charge to their customers.

Government data show that as of April, Napocor charges a PPA of P1.53/kwh on its customers in the Luzon grid, P1.07 in Cebu-Negros-Panay, P.50 in Leyte-Samar and P.59 in Mindanao.

Perez said Napocor would reduce its PPA charge by P1.13 in Luzon, P0.67 in Cebu-Negros-Panay, P.10 in Leyte-Samar, and P.19 in Mindanao.

"The reduction will be reflected in the end-May billing of Napocor to its customers such as distribution utilities, electric cooperatives and directly connected industrial customers," Perez said.

Perez, who is also the Napocor vice chair, added that end-users and other customers could expect the benefits of the PPA reduction in July.

He said the actual reduction for end-users would vary depending on their location and on how much power their distributors buy from Napocor.

"Consumers of utilities and cooperatives that buy their entire supply from Napocor would enjoy the full reduction (for each grid)," Perez said.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., which is disposing of Napocor assets and managing its liabilities, said the reduction would translate to a savings of about P95 for Meralco customers consuming 200 kwh a month.

PSALM president Edgardo del Fonso said the figure was based on Meralco's decision to source only 43 percent of its power supply from Napocor.

"This in effect is an (early implementation) of our proposal to level the PPA—which would become the universal charge—at 40 centavos per kwh," Del Fonso said.

Psalm's proposal is pending with the Energy Regulatory Commission, which under the law has to decide on the PPA charge by June 26. Separate bills have also been filed in the Senate and the House for a provisional authority for PSALM to implement the plan.

"The President's order is for us to reduce the PPA until the ERC has acted on our petition or a law has been passed, whichever comes first," Del Fonso said.

Price of reduction

He said that the reduction of the PPA charge might force Napocor to borrow about $300 million to make up for an estimated ₱15 billion in revenue loss from July to December Thursday.

"We will be cash-strapped at Napocor and that's why we have to refinance power purchase (costs)," Perez said.

The power sector reform law passed on to customers the higher costs of electricity produced by independent power producers that sell their output to Napocor.

Consumer groups have complained that Napocor's contracts with the independent power producers were grossly disadvantageous to the government.

"Napocor is already incurring big losses," Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said in a radio interview. The deferred PPA collections "will add to that," she added.

According to her, the President's decision is not expected to impact on the government's pledge to limit the 2002 national budget deficit to $130 billion.

"The national government is also a (power) consumer, so there will be a beneficial effect," Boncodin said.

"But over the long term, the taxpayers will eventually have to pay (Napocor's losses and loans."

Consumer groups

Groups belonging to the Power Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) yesterday welcomed the President's decision as well the ERC's order stopping Meralco from collecting its deferred PPA charges to its customers.

"This is a victory for consumers. Mounting public pressure and widespread protests finally compelled Malacañang and the ERC to take notice of the issue of the PPA and the power rate increase," Power convenor and Bagong Alyansang Makabayan spokesperson Renato Reyes Jr. said at a press conference in Quezon City.

Reyes, however, warned the public that "the fight is not over yet" in view of Meralco's petition for a power rate increase. Meralco also earlier said it would be difficult to implement ERC's order since it had started its new billing cycle for May and that it would hurt the company's finances.

"If the adjustments were to take effect only in June, the public might not enjoy the benefits of the PPA reduction because by the end of June, there will be a new rate schedule based on Meralco's unbundling of rates," he said.

Reyes explained that under the scheme, the PPA would no longer appear as such but will be inserted in the distribution and transmission charges.

As such, the Meralco's petition for an average rate increase of P1.12.kwh, if approved by the ERC, would negate the benefits of the PPA reduction.

But Power convenor Pete Ilagan, president of the National Association of Electricity Consumers for Reform (Nacecore), said the PPA charge imposed by Napocor should be completely suspended until the contracts it entered into with the independent power producers have been fully reviewed.

No right

Ilagan said Meralco also had "no right to charge PPA to its consumers since it was the risk they took when they decided to get their own IPPs."

"So why pass it on to consumers? On the other hand, the PPA charged by Napocor would be understandable because it is a government utility but the contracts should be reviewed," he said.

Militants have blamed Napocor's onerous contracts with IPPs for the high PPA charge.

"An inter-agency review committee was created precisely to review which contracts (with IPPs) were not judiciously entered into. That is tantamount to admission that some contracts were not in place," Ilagan pointed out.

Pending completion of the review of the contracts, Napocor should not impose any PPA charge. "Otherwise, you are punishing the people for something that is not just," Ilagan said.

Labor leader and Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran challenged Ms Macapagal to "put her foot down and call for the junking of the PPA and Meralco's petition for a rate hike and the unbundling of its rates."

Groups under the Power coalition will launch another "protest blackout" and noise barrage on May 16 in different areas in Metro Manila. ***With a report from Gerald Lacuarta***

Gov't loses another case vs Marcoses, cronies

From page A1

ment Corp., which in turn was partly owned by the PHI and Ramon and Imelda Cojuangco.

Division chair Associate Justice Narciso Nario penned the decision, with his two members, Associate Justices Rodolfo Pallatao and Nicodemo Ferrer, concurring.

Partial decision

The court labeled its ruling on Civil Case No. 0002, which seeks to recover a total of 625 million shares representing alleged ill-gotten wealth, in various companies as only a "Partial Decision."

The reason: the PCGG and the defendants agreed in 1996 to hold a "separate trial" exclusively concerning the 2.4 million PLDT shares only.

At the time of the filing of the case, the PLDT shares were valued at P1.6 billion, the court noted.

The court said "no competent evidence" was presented to show that then-President Ferdinand Marcos "had any hand in PTIC, or in the acquisition by the defendants Cojuangco in their own names of any of their shares therein."

There was also no evidence "to establish, or even infer, the existence of a relationship of trust between the defendants Cojuangco and defendant Ferdinand Marcos relative to the PLDT shares."

"There was no competent evidence to tie defendant Ferdinand Marcos with PTIC, or to establish that presidential concessions, benefits, or other incentives that could have improved PTIC, PLDT, and PHI were accorded said companies by defendant Ferdinand Marcos."

The PCGG, the court said, contended at one point that Marcos' widow Imelda claimed ownership of 67,392 PTIC shares that were held under the names of Ramon Cojuangco and one Luis Rivilla, and that said shares were ceded to Ms Marcos in 1967 as a settlement for a loan.

Also, the government also claimed then that Ramon Cojuangco purchased PTIC shares formerly belonging to General Telephone & Electronics "upon understanding, agreement and recognition that the defendant Cojuangcos were trustees/nominees of (the) Marcoses."

MARCOS

COJUANGCO

Unsupported allegations

But the court said these allegations "remained unsupported" and that even if Ms Marcos herself had claimed that such an understanding existed, "this self-serving declaration does not constitute evidence."

The decision thus upheld the Cojuangcos' claim as the lawful owners of 44 percent of PTIC, which at the time controlled 28 percent of PLDT, making it the biggest single stockholder of the telephone firm.

The Sandiganbayan also recalled how the PCGG presented two documents where Ferdinand Marcos was identified as Ramon Cojuangco's "Principal" in PLDT-related dealings.

It referred to a July 18, 1967 letter to Cojuangco from one Leslie H. Warker confirming the latter's appointment with Cojuangco's "Principal."

Another letter dated Oct. 9, 1967 from GTE's Theodore F. Brophy to one Eugene Braderman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Economic Affairs of the US State Department, "identified the Principal as President Marcos," the court noted.

"However, we find the Republic has likewise failed to provide such 'proof of authenticity or reliability' of said two documents," wrote Justice Nario.

These GTE documents were among those purportedly seized by US authorities from Ferdinand Marcos and family in Hawaii after they fled the Philippines in 1986, and then transmitted to the PCGG.

They bore the PCGG's official seal as proof of authenticity, the court said.

"However, as with the bulk of the Republic's documentary evidence, no explanation was offered why only photocopies of these were submitted to this court."

The PCGG also failed to produce "blank Deeds of Assignment and/or Deeds of Trust executed by PHI stockholders" which could have supported PCGG's claim that PHI was a mere dummy corporation put up for Ferdinand Marcos' benefit.

Nazario devoted much space to explain that while his division heeded the Supreme Court's policy that ill-gotten wealth cases should not be stalled by mere "technicalities," he and his fellow justices could not just ignore rules of evidence, especially on the admission of documents.

Young rebuke elders

From page A1

She was addressing the United Nations General Assembly at the opening of the children's summit on Wednesday.

"We want a world fit for children, because a world fit for us is a world fit for everyone," she said, reading from a statement adopted by a forum of nearly 400 youngsters from around the world earlier this week.

Arrieta and 17-year-old Audrey Cheynut of Monaco joined UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in criticizing grown-ups for creating a world where too many young people face poverty, war and disease.

Cheynut called for greater protection of child refugees, free quality education, free HIV testing, environmental conservation and cancellation of poor countries' debts—whose payment diverts money from children's programs.

The girls' 10-minute appearance was the only opportunity for children to directly address the general assembly during a three-day conference called in their name—and they made it count.

"We are the victims of exploitation and abuse. We are the street children. We are the children of war. We are the victims and orphans of HIV/AIDS. We are denied good quality education and health care," said Arrieta, whose face could barely be seen over the podium.

Annan agreed.

"We, the grown-ups, have failed you deplorably," he said, noting that 33 percent of youngsters suffer from malnutrition before the age of five, 25 percent are not immunized, nearly 20 percent don't attend school and far too many "have seen violence that no child should ever see."

27 goals

The gathering, which ends Friday, will review the successes and failures in meeting 27 goals set by the 1990 World Summit for Children, and set new priorities and goals for the next 15 years.

ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

CANDLE-LIGHTING rites for the street children of Malate on Thursday.

More than 50 leaders addressed the plenary session Wednesday, focusing on a wide variety of issues. Representatives of more than 60 countries are scheduled to speak on Thursday, including Peru's President Alejandro Toledo and Mexican President Vicente Fox.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni brought a dozen girls to the podium to underline the importance of girls' education, saying "this is my delegation." Egyptian first lady Suzanne Mubarak stressed the need to help Palestinian children. Croatian President Stipe Mesic said the world must eliminate terrorism if it is to improve children's lives. Equatorial Guinea's Prime Minister Candido Rivas warned against giving children liberties "that go against morals."

Healthy behavior

US Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson underlined President Bush's policy of promoting sexual abstinence for young people.

"Recently, the United States has begun promoting healthy behaviors and right choices for young people. Our efforts include strengthening close parent-child relationships, encouraging the delay of sexual activity, and supporting abstinence education programs," he said.

The United States was at odds with other nations over language in the summit's final document on family planning, children's rights, and "reproductive health," which some conservatives interpret as advocating abortion.

"The US position is holding up agreement on the issue of reproductive health," said Carol Bellamy, executive director of the United Nations Children's Fund.

A US official said all delegates have agreed privately that "health services" doesn't mean abortion, but the United States wants this, said in a footnote to the document.

US values

Mike Denis, a State Department legal adviser, told a news conference that the United States has proposed adding abstinence to the final document. He insisted the US position "strongly reflects the values" of the American people, and expressed disappointment in the final document for not taking a tougher position against child soldiers, child trafficking and child prostitution and pornography.

Improving access to education, especially for girls, was one of the focuses of the conference's first day.

Arshela Amir Ali, a 14-year-old Pakistani girl, said she was shocked when she heard a Nepalese expression that says that educating a girl is like watering a neighbor's plants.

"It's seen as useless," she said. "But they should think that it is like watering your own garden."

MARCH of children at the Remedios Circle, Malate ends up in child's play with Unicef volunteer Mindy Johnson and street child Carmi. The march was in support of the UN children's summit organized by the Global March Against Child Labor.

ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

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Vicente A. Rufino: The Man and His Legacy

By Arsenic Laurel, Jon-Jon Rufino, and Reni Singer

Herrera Street Renamed for One of Makati's Real Estate Pioneers

Through their successful first-class theaters, the Rufinos were the gatekeepers to Hollywood's golden era of films for droves of Filipino moviegoers

Today Herrera Street in Makati's Commercial Business District has been rechristened V. A. Rufino Street in recognition of the man who saw to the construction of Rufino Building, one of the first buildings to rise in Makati. The city honors Don Vicente A. Rufino, one of the country's real estate pioneers, on the occasion of his 100th birth anniversary.

Vicente Rufino (1902 – 1970) was the second of five children of Macario Rufino and Mercedes Pantangco of Malabon, Rizal. A graduate in bachelor arts of De La Salle College, he trained to be a lawyer at the Philippine Law School and was admitted to the bar in 1922.

Don Vicente and his siblings Ernesto, Rafael and Ester (the eldest, Manuel, died at an early age) owned and operated extensive business holdings comprised of first-class theaters and commercial buildings. Their properties, under the corporate name Herederos de M. Rufino Inc., were scattered throughout the districts of Quiapo, Sta. Cruz, and Binondo, the prime business and financial center of the country at the time. As the undisputed leaders of first-class movie entertainment, the Rufinos owned and operated Avenue, State, Ever, Lyric, and Gaiety theaters. Later they managed the Ayala-owned Rizal, Magallanes, and Quad theaters.

A closely-knit family, the Rufino brothers made their mark in their own fields of interest. Don Vicente oversaw the construction and operation of their real estate developments. Don Ernesto managed the highly successful theater business while Don Rafael assumed responsibility for the family's interests in banking.

Vicente and his wife Meding are shown here with actor Yul Brynner of "King and I" fame, when he still had a head of hair

A V. A. Rufino (r) and Former Vice-President Fernando Lopez (c), with Hollywood legends Charlton Heston and Susan Heyworth

John Wayne towers over the Rufino family: (L to R) Rafael & wife Julie, Meding Rufino, Ernesto & wife Elvira, and Vicente

The Rufino brothers Ernesto, Vicente, and Rafael receive a plaque of recognition from Warner Bros.

Ray Milland is flanked by Meding and Vicente and their daughters Marixi (l) and Maria Paz (r)

The Last of the Dons

In colonial Philippines the title "Don" conjures up images of wealth, prestige, integrity, and philanthrophy. No king or government can confer on a person the title of Don. And yet men of Vicente A. Rufino's calibre were called Don out of respect for a person who, by dint of affluence or hard work, earned the right to be called such. In our fast-paced, multicultural world, we are perhaps seeing the last of these venerable Dons. The title may indeed be a throwback from another generation—of another time, more romantic and perhaps more pompous. But the values and principles by which Don Vicente lived are very real to this day.

Don Vicente became a breadwinner at age 17, when his father died. This gave him excellent training in providing for the family he was to put at the center of his life—a family that has since grown to 24 grandchildren and 33 great-grandchildren. The solid work-ethic and compassion for people that Don Vicente instilled in his children are evident in the "people-centered" manner in which his family continues his legacy in business and philanthropy.

Don Vicente's passionate dedication to real estate development was passed on to his widow, Remedios Sunico, and their six children Ditas, Maria Paz, Marixi, Cary, Charlie, and Pixie. The next generation of Rufinos created Makati landmarks such as the Makati Cinema Square, Sunvar Plaza, Mile Long Center, The Gallery, and the Corinthian Plaza. Outside Makati they developed prestigious residential developments such as the Corinthian Gardens, Tahanan Village, and Maywood Village, as well as the low-cost housing projects of Garden City I and II. Together with his brothers, Don Vicente founded Bataan Pulp and Paper Mills (a project that many years later spun off into a second paper mill, TIPCO, based in San Simon, Pampanga). Both became major suppliers of newsprint and other paper products. In fact one could say that the Rufino family's involvement in the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* is yet another byproduct of Don Vicente's legacy—a legacy anchored on the family's mission statement: We are a family of love and harmony. We nurture each other's capacity TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Making a Difference

Don Vicente was a devout Catholic who believed that whatever successes and accomplishments came his way were gifts of grace from God. As such he assumed the mantle of responsibility to use his wealth and good fortune to help others.

Don Vicente was a friend, benefactor, and business associate to men who later became today's captains of industry and business. Perhaps most notable of them is Henry Sy, then a young businessman, who was granted by the Rufinos precious ground floor space at the Doña Mercedes Building in Plaza Miranda, Quiapo, over other more established and well-connected applicants. Another associate is Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco, who early in his career worked with the Rufinos as their CFO. Ambassador Tantoco fondly recalls that on the numerous business trips to Hong Kong and the U.S. assigned him by the Rufino brothers, his wife Glecy would buy merchandise with the intention of reselling them in Manila—hence the idea for an upscale department store called Rustan's was born. Engineer Antolin Oreta remembers that in all his business dealings with Don Vicente over the many buildings they would put up together, there never was a contract between the two men, just a handshake. Don Vicente never questioned his billings and Engineer Oreta, for his part, always returned the savings.

A Legacy of Goodwill

Perhaps those days of chivalry and handshakes are over. But the benevolence of Don Vicente and his siblings helped create an atmosphere of goodwill that empowered men like Sy, Tantoco, and Oreta to play key roles in the development of Philippine commerce and industry. Indeed, Don Vicente's many acts of kindness set off a chain of good deeds that continue to benefit his descendants to this day.

Don Vicente's achievements certainly did not end with him. They are evident today in the two buildings that grace the Makati skyline that bear his name, and in the countless people whose lives he touched.

Vicente shown here with Amado Araneta (l), grandfather of DTI Secretary Mar Roxas; and Marcos B. Roces (c)

V.A. Rufino with his wife and children: (L to R) Cary, Pixie, Charlie, Marixi, Ditas and her husband, Manny Roxas

Vicente (r), his brother Ernesto (l), and Aaron Pines mug for the camera as cowboys

Vicente with his wife of 40 years, Meding Chuidian Sunico

Vicente, playing the game he loved

With President Diosdado Macapagal (center) and (left) sister-in-law Conching Sunico

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at 9:00 in the morning

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Rizal Technical finalist

TALAVERA, Nueva Ecija—Rizal Technical University of Mandaluyong City continued to run roughshod over the opposition, taking two more victories yesterday and securing its place in the page-system Final Four in the women's side of the All-Philippine Softball Championships at the Talavera National High School ballpark here.

TOO LATE THE THROW

Milwaukee Brewers' Ronnie Belliard (10) is safe at home as Cincinnati Reds catcher Corky Miller fields the late throw during the first inning yesterday in Cincinnati. Belliard scored on a double by Richie Sexson. The Reds won, 14-5. AP

Negrido age group champ; Garcia leads seniors

LAURENCE Negrido turned back Cebuano Charles Hong, 4 and 3, yesterday to become Class B champion in the National age-group championship grand finals at the Dye course of the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

In the day's final match, Bibat prevailed over Padilla for the boys Class A plum.

Negrido, a member of the Mizuno amateur stable, proved too classy for Hong as he went all the way after posting a huge semifinal upset over the fancied Judson Eustaquio.

Remijin Camping rallied from two shots down going into the last four holes to beat Geleen Handog for the girls Class B crown.

Over at the Couples course of the Riviera Golf and Country Club, Richie Garcia sizzled with a three-under-par 69 to storm ahead by 10 strokes after the penultimate round of the Philippine Amateur seniors championship.

Starting the day two strokes behind Caloy Coscolluela, Garcia, the former Philippine Sports Commissioner, played one of his best games in years in the tournament sponsored by Toyota Motor Phils., Pagcor, Pfizer, Mizuno, Taylor Made-adidas, Pacsports, Nestle and DHL/WWW Express.

The issue is not lateness

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HERE'S good news. Gerry Peñalosa will challenge World Boxing Council flyweight champion Masamori Tokuyama anew on Nov. 8 in Osaka, Japan.

I covered their first fight last September in Yokohama. Gruesome. Gerry lost on points after Tokuyama got away with glaring head-butting tactics that bloodied both Gerry's face and head.

The British referee had bizarrely turned a blind eye to all that; he never even imposed a single point-deduction, nor a warning, against the North Korean champion.

In a protest he filed in Thailand last December during the WBC convention, Rudy Salud contested the decision. WBC president Jose Sulaiman saw merit to that and ordered the rematch.

Gerry is now in the United States training under the famous Freddie Roach, trainer of the legendary Roy Jones Jr. Gerry is set to fight Oscar Andrade for the NABF title in California on May 25.

With Rudy Salud on Gerry's side, Peñalosa can never go wrong.

■

Rudy Duterte will revive the Mayor's Cup on Aug. 3-4 at both Apo and Lanang in Davao City. Lucho Singh, the mayor's buddy, called me up yesterday from the City of Durian to say Mayor Rudy is ready to spread the "red carpet to you."

I am flattered.

The Mayor's Cup was shelved when Rudy, a no-nonsense mayor, became Davao congressman. Now that he is back at City Hall, golf's alive once more in the world's largest city.

■

The issue is not lateness. Rather, it's necessity.

Education Secretary Raul Roco has canceled the June Palaro in Naga City because, according to him, Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission was late in securing the funds needed for the Games.

One day late is late?

Said James J. Walker: "If you're there before it's over, you're on time."

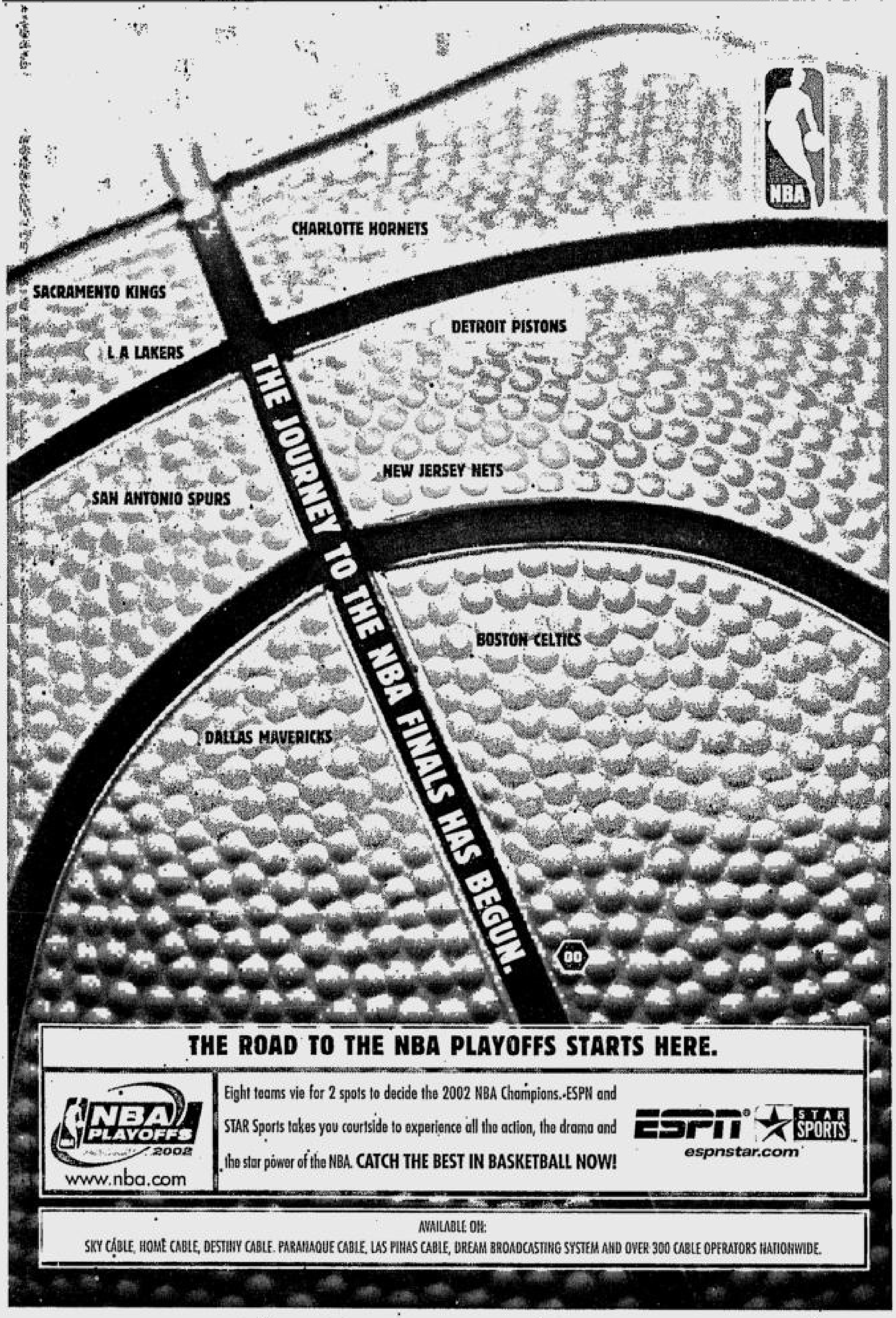
The Palaro does not begin until June 3, the day GMA is supposed to declare the Games open. Buhain produced the Palaro budget May 6.

So what lateness are we talking about here?

It's necessary that the Palaro be held in June and not in January because, as Rep. Puentevella, said, "Fifteen of the 16 regional directors have already submitted their entries for the Palaro." Which means our athletes are "ready to rumble."

When Roco canceled the Games, that amounted to something like insulting Buhain. Where's sound leadership headed to?

Listen to Dwight D. Eisenhower: "You do not lead by hitting people over the head—that's assault, not leadership."



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Tuason impressive debut

ZHUHAI, China—Former Karter of the Year JP Tuason of Tuasing Racing-Team Oxygen may not have won but created quite an impressive debut in Rounds 3 and 4 of the 2002 Asian Formula Challenge at the Zhuhai International Circuit here.

Despite the problems hounding him during the practice that gave him less track time against the more experienced Filipino drivers, the 26-year-old Tuason emerged the 2nd fastest Filipino in the grid behind last year's Formula 3 champion Jojo Silverio.

And just before the race proper, Tuason, whose stint here was backed up by Oxygen, Standard Insurance, Technomarine Watches, Opel-Marketing, Forward Magazine and Magic 89.9 DWTM, got the attention of rival drivers and the mammoth crowd that witnessed the event.

"For the first timer in Formula 3 racing, JP's performance was outstanding and if given more track time, he'd be one of the best contenders for the Philippines. I believe there's no way for him but to go up," said Asian Formula 3 Chair Eddie Pena.

Trying to live up to expectations, Tuason pushed his car to the limit and took the eighth position against veteran drivers from Hong Kong, England, France, Korea, Taiwan, Canada and host China.

GMA: Win-win move for Palaro

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MACAPAGAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday joined the fray in the Palarong Pambansa, demanding a win-win solution from officials out to solve the crisis today in Malacañang.

Education Secretary Raul Roco on Monday scrapped the Palaro set next month, a move that stunned Chair Eric Buhain of the Philippine Sports Commission and drew fire from Rep. Bobby Dimaporo of Lanao del Norte.

The President, who has agreed to grace the Palaro opening on June 3 in Naga City, instructed Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo to sit down with Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevella, Roco, Buhain and Naga City Mayor Jessie Robredo.

"She really wants the matter to be resolved as soon as possible," said Puentevella who was with the President in Thailand. "So she called for this meeting to clear things out."

The idea, according to Puentevella, is to present to Roco proofs that 15 of his 16 regional directors have already submitted their entries for the Palaro, signifying their readiness to compete in the Games. Regional directors have issued memorandum orders for PE instructors to prepare and train students for the Palaro.

Roco had earlier said his regional directors "are not ready."

"But I have papers to show that all of these regions, with the exception of the National Capital Region, have already submitted their entries to the PSC as early as Friday last week," said Puentevella. "There's no more reason to cancel the Games."

Roco's decision has caused a stir among sports officials, who said the cancellation will do more harm than good. Some P41 million have already been spent for the Palaro preparation.

SPORTSWATCH

Marave seeks 4th straight victory

WITH the season almost halfway through, top contenders led by defending champion Pepon Marave seek to fortify their title chances tomorrow in the fourth leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Marave is eyeing his fourth straight win, making him the main target of four equally tough rivals—GP-Kart Plaza's Jinky Cabilinan and Manny Sy, Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Mike Tuason and MOFO's Allan Uy in this event sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia, Coca-Cola Bottlers and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. "While Marave is set on making history as the first karter to win the title three times, the other drivers are out to prove that he's not that invincible," said Carmona Circuit Philippines project director Lot M. Tan.

San Pablo hosts Supercross tomorrow

RACING Team events organizer MP Turbo launches its Supercross Series in San Pablo City, Laguna, tomorrow at Fil-Estate's Villa Reverina Project, Barangay San Rafael. The San Pablo Foundation Day Supercross will be sponsored by MP Turbo Race and Rally Shop, BLTBCO, Fil-Estate Dev't Corp. and Speed TV and is held in cooperation with the San Pablo City Government headed by Mayor Florante Boy Aquino. Namssa, through its managing director, Macky Carapiet, has sanctioned the event and will ensure strict adherence to the national body's safety regulations.

Cebu Queens downs Davao Pearls

NAGA City—Spitfirish point guard Pixie Valencia led the Cebu Queens to a 45-35 thrashing of the Davao Pearls for their second straight win in the 1st Women's National Basketbal League here. The 5-foot-5 Valencia banged in 10 points and orchestrated the Queens' fluid motion offense in the first quarter. Cebu is managed by Philip Tan Lee and sponsored by Onward Media Blitz. In other games, the Pangasinan-Simco Traders and Zamboanga-Burlington bounced back from their opening-day losses. The Summers pulled off a 36-33 win over the host Bicol Beauties-Bestank while the Flowers routed the Laguna Charmers Jumbo Plastics, 50-36.

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Gossip Column 2. Royal Angel 3. Katya 4. Imus Emperor
Race 2—1. Disco Dancer 2. Royal Title 3. Wind Star 4. Aeyu's Glory 5. Bukambibig
Race 3—1. Love Song 2. God Is Good 3. Gold Prosperity 4. Native Talent
Race 4—1. Morning Glory 2. Feast of Diamond 3. Legitimo
Race 5—1. Flirt 2. Thunder Speed 3. Majestic Ruler 4. Turbo Carera
Race 6—1. River Bee 2. Play By Ear 3. King Hazm 4. Speactacular Lady 5. Easy Rider 6. Dangerous Beauty
Race 7—1. Mica's Magic 2. Kayang Kaya 3. Pride of Mandaue 4. Red Rose 5. Powerhouse
Race 8—1. Boy Yoski 2. Fortunate 3. Kentucky News
Race 9—1. Sham Sham 2. Brenda Starr 3. Charmingly Chit 4. Señor Perior 5. Maharani 6. Ayra's Pet

YOUNGEST CHAMPION

Five-year-old Vic Vic Villavicencio caught an 8.5-kg Dorado using a six-pound line in San Vicente, Sta. Ana, Cagayan, on April 28. The catch is a new Philippine record in an age-group category.

Celtics level series with Pistons

BIG WIN AP

Jennifer Capriati hammers a return to compatriot Meilen Tu during their match yesterday in the $1.22 German Open in Berlin. Capriati won, 6-4, 6-3. Serena Williams also won but not Kim Clijsters. Serena beat Barbara Schett, 6-3, 6-2. Clijsters lost to Israel's Anna Smashova, 7-5, 6-4, 7-5.

HILLS, Michigan—Paul Pierce led a balanced attack with 22 points as the Boston Celtics beat the Detroit Pistons, 85-77, Wednesday to even the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is Friday night (Saturday in Manila) in Boston.

Eric Williams scored points 18 for the Celtics, while Antoine Walker had 15, Rodney Rogers 13 and Kenny Anderson 11.

Jerry Stackhouse led Detroit with 25 points.

Boston held Detroit to 32.9 percent shooting, its worst performance of the season, and out-rebounded the Pistons 53-35.

O'Neal hurting; nothing new

EL SEGUNDO, California—Shaquille O'Neal is hurting, which is nothing new. That's the way it's been all season. It's difficult to tell how much pain the Los Angeles Lakers' big man feels at this point since he didn't share those feelings, or anything else, with reporters Wednesday. O'Neal cut his finger early in the third quarter of Sunday's 86-80 victory over the Spurs in Game 1. The injury required three stitches, and he scored 13 points following his return to the game with 10:50 left.

It's a virtual certainty O'Neal will play Friday night (Saturday in Manila) when the Lakers play the San Antonio Spurs in Game 3 of the Western Conference semifinals at the Alamodome, although teammates Kobe Bryant and Samaki Walker said they thought he wouldn't if this was the regular season. *AP*

Belle Cup unwraps at Tagaytay Highlands today

THE BELLE CUP, one of the country's most prestigious golf tournaments, will start today in Tagaytay. It will end tomorrow.

Now on its third year, the Belle Cup is slated at both Highlands and Midlands. Tagaytay Highlands general manager Nick Celdran has thanked sponsors Lacoste Sport, Cathay Pacific, Kart Plaza, Perfect Smile, Franzia, Canon, GG&A Club shares, IE Bank, SM Prime Holdings, AA Manahan, Werdenberg Corp., GTPI, Saison Industries and Sports Specialist "for their invaluable support."

Said Celdran: "We are optimistic our participants will have fun for two days."

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

NBA Playoffs Conference Semifinals—New Jersey Nets vs Charlotte Hornets, Game 3 at 7 a.m. (r – 9 p.m.) and Sacramento Kings vs Dallas Mavericks, Game 3 at 9:30 a.m. (r –12 midnight) on ESPN

NBA Anthology - 1995 Houston Rockets Double Clutch at 5 p.m. on ESPN

TENNIS: Masters Series (Rome), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #4 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1997, Caloy Nival shot a one-under par 68 to post a six-stroke victory in the 1997 Seniors pro-am golf circuit at the Philippine Navy Golf Club course.

Serrano, Micayabas Coke netfest s'finalists

SUBI BAY FREEPORT—Davao Oriental's Macy Serrano and Bukidnon's Arra Micayabas upset their seeded rivals Wednesday night to reach the semifinals of the first Coca-Cola National Tennis Championships at the New Subic Bay International Sports and Tennis Center here.

Serrano outlasted top seed Julie EM Botor, 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (4), to advance against No. 3 Bambi Zoleta of Lucena City, a 6-0, 6-0 winner over Brenda Claire Noquillo in the girls' 14 under class. Other winners were Cebuano Jin Querubin over Anna Buenviaje, 6-4, 6-4, and No. 4 Jessica Agra over Juneiza Galinato, 6-4, 6-4.

Micayabas, on the other hand, pulled off a 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 win over No. 2 Catherine Flores of Albay to advance against No. 4 Patricia Adaza of Davao Oriental, who beat Joy Jasper Cabisong, 6-2, 6-1, in the girls' 16-under division of this Group 1 event presented by Coca Cola Bottlers Inc. and supported by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority chair Felicito Payumo, Chris Sports, PLDT, Ruflex, Union Bank, Union Cement, Wilson, Prince, Dunlop and Adidas.

Micayabas bested UP's Camille Espiritu, 6-3, 6-1, to join top seed Alyssa Labay, No.4 Catherine Flores and Dumaguete City's Melody Barraquias in the 18-under semis.

In the boys' 14-under class, Davao City's Ralph Kevin Barte ousted No. 6 Miguel Antonio Pantua of South Cotabato, 6-4, 6-4, to advance in the semis against top seed Kyle Dandan of Colegio San Agustin, who breezed past No. 7 James Pang of Davao Oriental, 6-1, 6-0.

Mandaue Open May 13-14

REGISTRATION is now ongoing for the Mandaue Open Men's Tennis Championships in Cebu. Qualifying dates are May 13-14 and the main draw will start on May 15. Participants can call Loida Mallare at 525-6434 or 523-6415 for other details.

Who'll be NC Cocker of the Year?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SIX entries are locked in combat in this year's race for the coveted Cocker of the Year award at the Araneta Coliseum. And because it's still anybody's game entering the homestretch, the outcome will be very crucial to all contenders, including those who are competing in the May 13-15 National Cockers Association 7-Cock Derby hosted by noted sportsman-lawyer Rudy Salud, his longtime buddy Lito Orillaza, businessman Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame and the respected Firefly Group.

After 11 regular cock derbies and one World Slasher 8-Cock Cup, the frontrunners are R&B Farm I of Rep. Claude Bautista, the newest member of the NCA Central Council and partner Boyboy Roa who have accumulated a total of 57 points; Spencer Winslet of Dicky Lim and William Co (also with 57 points), Firefly Thunderbird 13 of the Firefly Group (52.5), Firefly Thunderbird 8 of lawyer Ram Lopez and the Firefly Group (46), Mulawin of Frank Berin, Boyet Joson and Rep. Rudy Albano (44.5) and never-say-die Combine Harvester of Johnny Jalandoni and Philip Chongbian of the fabled Chiongbian clan (42.5).

The Cocker of the Year award goes to the entry that garners the most points after 12 out of 15 regular derbies and two World Slasher 8-Cock Derbies during the 2001-2002 season of the National Cockers Association. Composed of the country's most successful businessmen-sportsmen, its roster includes Big Dome owner Jorge "Nene" Araneta, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's Jun and Rudy Jingco, lawyer Rudy Salud and Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, to name a few. But unbeknownst to many, the association is not only promoting the authentic Filipino sport as a game based on honesty and fair play, it is also setting aside a substantial portion of its earnings to help the less fortunate members of society, including the funding of scholarship grants to deserving students. Truly, the NCA is a breed apart.

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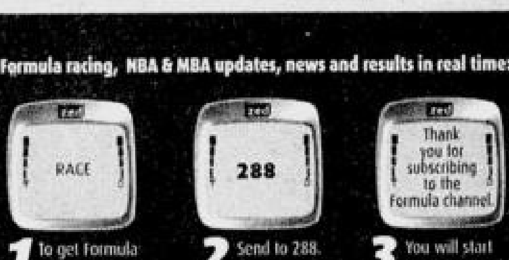
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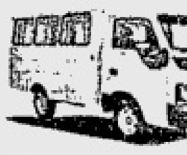

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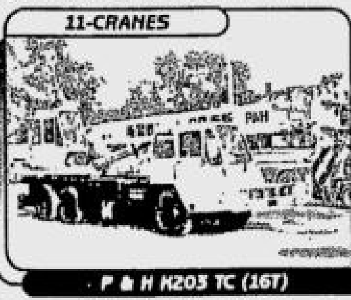
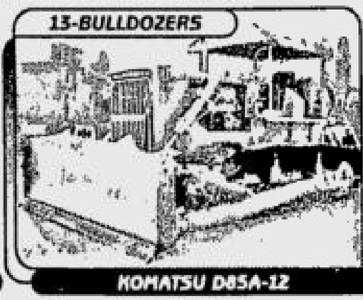


P & H K203 TC (16T)
13-BULLDOZERS



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Purefoods, Alaska arrange PBA Finals showdown

GAMES SUNDAY (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—San Miguel vs Coca-Cola (3rd place)
5:45 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska (Game 1, Finals)

PUREFOODS escaped with a 78-75 victory over Coca-Cola to reach the Finals of the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena last night.

Derrick Brown made a crucial steal in the dying seconds, while veteran playmaker Ronnie Magsanoc chipped in a pair of game-clinching free throws as the Hotdogs won their best-of-five semifinal battle with the Tigers, 3-2.

In the second game, Alaska squeezed past San Miguel Beer, 65-62, to arrange a championship showdown with Purefoods.

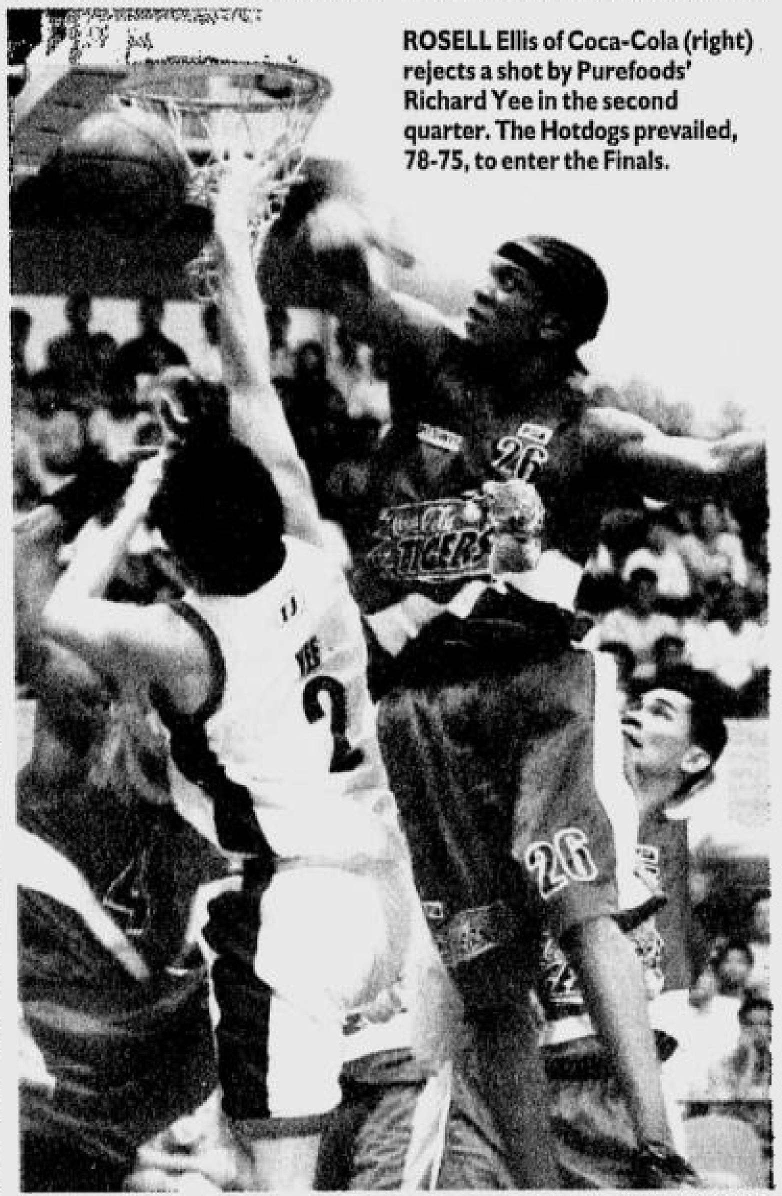
Ron Riley scored 12 of his 17 points in the homestretch to lift the Aces to a similar 3-2 victory over the Beermen.

Slotman Kerby Raymundo shone the brightest for the Hotdogs as he barreled in 12 of his 18 points in the final half and did a superb job of stopping Ron Hale from operating on the floor.

Raymundo limited Hale to just four points in the last 20 minutes of play.

Scores:
First Game:
PUREFOODS 78—Brownn 30, Raymundo 18, Yee 8, Magsanoc 8, Evangelista 6, Price 6, Yap 2, Patrimonio 0.
COCA-COLA 75—Morano 22, Ellis 22, Hale 17, Abarrientos 6, Abuda 4, Reavis 2, Ballesteros 2, Briones 0.
Quarters: 23-19, 44-38, 64-55, 78-75.

Second Game:
ALASKA MILK 65—Head 21, Riley 17, Arigo 14, Allado 6, Gahol 4, Santos 3, Lastimosa 0, Walkvist 0.
SAN MIGUEL BEER 62—Bennett 24, Lago 13, Victoria 11, Peña 6, Duat 5, Belasco 2, Strothers 1, Mente 0.
Quarters: 17-15; 30-31; 44-43; 65-62.


ROSELL Ellis of Coca-Cola (right) rejects a shot by Purefoods' Richard Yee in the second quarter. The Hotdogs prevailed, 78-75, to enter the Finals.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

La Salle battles Blu 5

GAMES TODAY
(Makati Coliseum)
1:45 p.m.—Ateneo vs RP Youth
4 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs John O
6 p.m.—Blu vs ICTSI-La Salle

LEADER ICTSI-La Salle eyes to keep its distance over its pursuers as it tackles dangerous Blu Sun Power tonight in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Despite being assured of a semifinals seat, the Green Archers are expected not too take the Detergent Kings lightly in their 6 p.m. match.

The five qualifiers will carry their respective elimination records in the double-round robin semis round.

Ateneo is poised to snap a two-game losing streak as it tackles RP Youth in the first game at 1:45 p.m. Ana Freezers and John-O, two teams hot on the trail of a slot in the semis, collide at 4 p.m.

Both the Green Archers and the Detergent Kings are known for their sticky defense. ICTSI-La Salle forces turnovers with its deadly full-court, trapping defense, while Blu likes to play it physical.

Pointguard Mike Cortez, Willy Wilson, Manny Ramos, Mark Magsumbol, James Yap, Ronald Cuan and Francis Zamora banner La Salle's bid.

Blu pins its hopes on slotman Marlon Legaspi, Aries Dimaunahan, Jacques Gottenbos, Arnold Calo, Eric de la Cuesta and John Prior. *Dennis Eroa*

LBC nips Cebuana in 3 OTs, 124-119

GAMES TODAY *(Lipa Cultural Center)*
3:30 p.m.—Casino CDO vs Olongapo
6 p.m.—Pampanga vs LBC Batangas

LIPA CITY—LBC Batangas subdued Cebuana Lhuillier, 124-119, in the MBA's first ever triple overtime Wednesday night to boost its drive toward a semifinal slot in the North Conference at the Lipa Youth and Cultural Center here.

Jeffrey Sanders, Eddie Laure and Alex Compton again proved to be the Blades' main men as they powered the defending national champions to their fifth win in nine outings in the elimination phase of the First Conference.

The 6-foot-3 Sanders scattered 32 points, grabbed seven rebound, issued six assists and had two steals and two rebounds, while Laure, the 2001 MVP, pumped in 25 points, collared 17 rebounds and had three blocks and two steals.

Compton, of course, was the steadying factor for the Blades as he chipped in 24 points apart from dishing off nine assists and stealing twice. It was a stingy defeat for the Gems as they fell to 5-4 in the South Conference and found themselves in a must-win situation against the Negros Slashers tomorrow.

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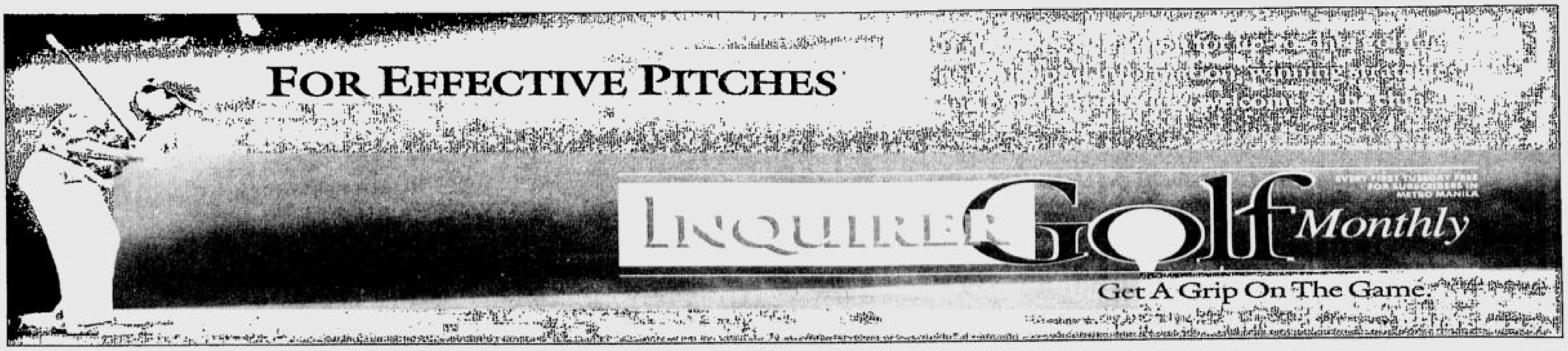
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Witness in slay of nurse 'missing'

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PRIMARY witness in the killing of a private nurse in Las Piñas is missing, according to the lawyer of the family of victim Belma Abella.

Melanio "Batas" Mauricio Jr. yesterday filed a manifestation on the reported disappearance of Wensis Tablang, 31, the driver and bodyguard of businesswoman Marybeth Lopez de Leon, the suspect in Abella's killing before the city prosecutor's office.

Mauricio on Wednesday asked the Las Piñas police to track down Tablang, who had supposedly gone into hiding.

In a letter to Mauricio, Abella's husband Raul said Tablang could no longer be reached in his houses in Cubao, Quezon City and in Camarin, Caloocan City.

"He has been receiving reports that this sudden disappearance of Tablang could be due to his having gone (into) hiding for fear of his life...or because he has been asked to make himself scarce so he could no longer testify in the case," said Mauricio in his letter to the Las Piñas police chief.

Tablang had implicated his employer in the killing of Abella.

In his sworn statement to police immediately after Abella's killing last month, Tablang said he had seen De Leon alighting from her BMW sedan and holding a Glock-type 9-mm pistol in front of BF International Village.

He said Abella had lain inside the car with a gunshot wound in her chest.

Another witness, village security guard Conrado Erasca, supposedly saw Tablang trying to wrest the gun from De Leon after the shooting.

De Leon's lawyers had argued that neither Tablang nor Erasca had actually seen their client shoot Abella, whom she had claimed in her affidavit was a close friend and a confidante.

Trigger-happy teeners gun down student in Manila

By Philip C. Tubeza

JOSEPH A. Ivasco, 17, was killed, while Bryan G. Lanot, also 17, and Rolando Lipan, 20, were injured in a drive-by shooting in Sampaloc about midnight yesterday.

Ivasco, 17, of Blumentritt Street, Sampaloc, Manila, was killed when four unidentified men on board a green Mitsubishi car shot him seven times, said Detective Virgo Villareal, of the Western Police District homicide section.

Ivasco's friend, Lanot, of Prudencio Street, Sampaloc, and bystander Lipan were hit and injured in the shooting.

Police said Ivasco and Lanot were members of the True Brown Style Fraternity.

Police suspect that the culprits belonged to True Brown's rival, the Temple Street Gang.

Villareal said the shooting incident occurred at around 1:40 a.m. yesterday at the corner of Frederico and Piy Margal streets in Sampaloc.

The three victims were having a conversation with a fourth companion when the suspects' car pulled up. The gunman allegedly lowered the window and opened fire, Villareal said.

Stabbed for being 'close' to the boss

BUS CONDUCTOR Jubert Parole, 31, of Bagong Silang, Caloocan City, was stabbed dead by a coworker who allegedly resented the victim's closeness to their boss. PO3 Carmelito Silvino of the Caloocan Police said Delfin Ramos, 29, also a bus conductor, got mad when he saw Parole talking to their boss inside the Francisco Busline in Caloocan City. Ramos, who was reportedly drunk, thought the victim was sucking up to the boss, police said. Ramos confronted the victim and, in the heat of the moment, stabbed Parole several times before he fled, police said. Parole died while being treated at the Nodado Hospital in Caloocan City.

Tina Santos

WAZZZZUP?
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

BRGY ALMANZA, LAS PIÑAS	MR.ROXY PRYZM	THE DAWN MAY 21 ☎801.7644
[illegible] ARQUEZA ST., MALATE	PUZZLES PHYRIGIAN / KOOLJACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
[illegible] REMEDIOS ST., MALATE	J BROTHERS BROWNIE / MUSIC CIRCUIT	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
NOVALICHES Q.C.	STREETLIFE SERSIDE/ZEST	THE DAWN MAY 28 ☎(049) 511.7268
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA ST	VIEW FIRE ESCAPE	☎522-0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe-Grill-Restaurant	FIGURE 8 MODAL MAGIC	P250 CONSUMABLE 8:30 PM ☎ 400-7438/39
OUTSIDE METRO MANILA		
BIÑAN, LAGUNA	POWER ON PARTY-Z-POLE	THE DAWN MAY 23 ☎ (049) 511.7268
KAMPO BRGY SUNGAY I TAGAYTAY CITY	MUSIK JIVE	APR. 28 DEGREE ☎373.5110
PartyLove SAN FERNANDO, PAMPANGA	RAVE	MULATTO MAY 31 BIKINI OPEN MAY 24 ☎ (045)961.3360
THE SUMMIT THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL [illegible] DAVAO CITY	CIRCLE OF 5TH BAND W/ LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	HAPPY HOUR 6-9 PM ☎ (082)-2258888

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CALTEX
What Drives You

Investigators to review videotape in death of vice mayor's partner

By Alcuin Papa

THE INVESTIGATION of the death of Raquel Ambrosio, the live-in partner of Makati City Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, took a new turn after Makati police said yesterday that they would examine videotapes of the closed circuit TV near Ambrosio's condominium unit.

PO2 Juancho Ibis told reporters that he has requested administrators of the Peak Tower condominium on Leviste Street in Barangay Bel Air, Makati, where Ambrosio and Mercado had a unit, for copies of the videotapes.

Ambrosio, 24, was found bleeding from a gunshot wound in the stomach on April 24 inside her bedroom in the condominium. She died the following day at the Makati Medical Center.

Mercado said Ambrosio might have killed herself because she was suffering from post-natal syndrome. He said he was not home when the incident occurred. Ibis said he would compare the videotapes from the condominium building with the records of the security guards that showed Mercado was not in the premises when Ambrosio supposedly killed herself.

Police investigators have yet to settle the issue of why the .38 revolver that Ambrosio had supposedly shot herself with had been only been turned over to police two days after the shooting and why the scene of the shooting had been cleaned.

A ballistics examination confirmed that the slug found in Ambrosio's body had come from the gun. Ambrosio also tested positive of firing a gun in paraffin tests.

Mercado is due to give his statement on his lover's supposed suicide today, a full two weeks after the incident.

Ambrosio's friends, sisters Irene and Noemi Bartolome, had told police that the vice mayor was not in the condominium unit when they found Ambrosio bleeding from the gunshot wound.

The Bartolome sisters where the ones who brought Ambrosio to the Makati Medical Center.

They told police Ambrosio had called them earlier after she had a misunderstanding with Mercado, who had left the condominium. Ambrosio had asked them to come to the condo, the sisters said.

Police earlier asked Mercado to give his statement on the supposed suicide of Ambrosio, but the Makati City Public Information Office instead released a statement that said Mercado had asked for an end to "speculations" that he had anything to do with his lover's death.

Another statement released by Mercado said Ambrosio was suffering from severe post-partum depression or post-natal blues after the birth of her son three months ago.

RTC asked to recheck NBI's shabu stock

By Philip Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation yesterday asked the Pasay Regional Trial Court to reweigh the shabu stock in the bureau's evidence vault to determine if nine kilos of the illegal drug are really missing.

The NBI would also want people from outside the bureau to be present when the evidence is rechecked.

Samuel Ong, NBI deputy director for Intelligence Services, told reporters yesterday morning that they filed a motion before the Pasay court to assign "non-NBI" people, "like (members of) non-government organizations" to be present.

He said this would help ensure that the investigation will be fair.

"Heads will roll if the pilferage is confirmed," said Ong, who hears the committee investigating the case. "There will be no cover-up."

The committee is trying to find out if 8.67 kilos of shabu are really missing from the NBI evidence vault. The Pasay RTC sheriff and the Dangerous Drugs Board discovered the alleged inventory last month of the 246.76 kilos of contraband seized by the NBI in Pasay on Dec. 26, 2000.

Maynilad Water wants new price increase

By Christine Gaylican

THE MAYNILAD Water Services Inc. is asking for an additional 0.6 centavo per liter increase in its basic rates in the next five years to recover the rest of the P2.7 billion worth of foreign exchange losses it had incurred in the last three years.

The water company has also petitioned for a special transitory mechanism after determining that it will not be able to recover its financial losses from peso depreciation in the next two years starting in October 2001.

Maynilad president Rafael Alunan III on Wednesday said their estimates show that they would need an additional 0.6 centavos per liter to fully cover these foreign exchange losses.

But these figures would have to be verified and approved by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's Regulatory Office before its implementation.

This will be the fourth time that the Lopez Group's water concessionaire Maynilad will jack up its rates in the last eight months.

In October 2001, Maynilad increased its basic rates by P4.21 per cubic meter. This was followed by a P4.21 increase in January and a 60 centavos hike April.

These tariff rate adjustments will pave the way for Maynilad in acquiring its term loans worth $350 million from foreign banks before the year ends.

Maynilad is a joint venture between the Lopez group and Ondeo Philippines, formerly Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux of France. It accounts for the water service in the west zone, which includes Manila, Pasay, Las Piñas, Malabon, Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Navotas, Parañaque, Bacoor, Kawit, Imus, Cavite City, Noveleta, Rosario and parts of Taguig and Quezon City.

Rooting for the underdog

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

REMEMBER the case of that poor, little worker who was promised a measly P2,000 monthly pay but was instead given a runaround by his tyrannical former employer?

Deomides Sibulan, 30, has found sympathetic backers who have pledged to give their time and effort for him and the sake of justice.

There was the ever-reliable Rene Saguisag, unshakeable truth and freedom fighter, who faxed a note assuring the poor fellow he would be on his side.

It would be a privilege to serve, Mr. Saguisag said, although he has some reservations: "Lawyers are not supposed to intervene at the barangay level so as not to infect or pollute the conciliation process."

Lawyer Antonio G. Arellano, popularly known as AGA, has also offered his free services.

But here's a surveillance and spot report from the Department of Labor Region IV sent to Labor Secretary Patricia A. Santo Tomas.

This should warm the hearts of those who cheer for the underdog. Kindly read on.

***

"Upon receipt of fax copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer column 'Bare Eye' on May 3, 2002, and with instructions from the Chief, Rizal Provincial Labor and Employment Office, the undersigned conducted surveillance on May 6, 2002 to ascertain the veracity of the labor related incident.

We have made the following discoveries:

"1. That the name of establishment is not PDY Motors Inc. (as printed in the column item) but Phidway Motors Inc. with address on Marlo Drive, Montevista Park Subdivision, Cainta, Rizal;

"2. That Mr. Elpidio La Torre is the proprietor of said motor shop;

"3. That Mr. Diomedes Sibulan, 30 years old, was employed in the said establishment as confirmed by Mr. La Torre, on the last week of October 2001. He returned to work at Phidway Motors in January 2002 upon being convinced by the brother of the motor shop owner;

"4. The undersigned successfully located Mr. Sibulan working as shop helper at Manalang Brothers Inc. situated on the Manila East Road, Angono, Rizal;

"5. That Mr. Sibulan alleged that he started working with Phidway Motors from January 12, 2000 up to the first week of October 2001;

"5. That Mr. Sibulan said his former employer owed him more or less P8,000 for unpaid salary. He said he was only paid P2,000 a month;

"6. That after almost two months without work, no shelter and money to buy food, he wandered aimlessly around Cainta, Rizal where a former co-worker saw him, took pity and introduced him to his friend's employers, Mr. and Mrs. Arnel Manalang, owners of Manalang Brothers Motors, who without hesitation hired him as shop aide. Upon interview with Mrs. Loyda Manalang, she said that she took pity on Mr. Sibulan because he looked dirty and had not eaten for several days;

"7. That, Mr. Sibulan tried to collect the unpaid salary from his former employer, Mr. La Torre, because he received a letter telling him that his mother was sick and needed money for her medicines. Instead, he was mauled by the eldest son of Mr. La Torre, although there was no incident report from barangay authorities and no police report could be gathered as well. Further, Mr. Sibulan said he reported the matter to the police but was told to first secure a barangay and medical report, which he failed to do for fear of additional reprisal from his former employer and lack of money to pay for the medical examination;

"8. Furthermore, when the undersigned tried to talk to barangay officers concerning the case of Mr. Sibulan against his former employer, the undersigned received only a shrug and was told that the incident was already settled amicably. (It seems Mr. La Torre has some political influence in the area).

"The undersigned advised Mr. Sibulan to file formal complaints with our provincial office. His new employer said that he would help and support Mr. Sibulan in his plight.

Respectfully submitted:
Joseph T. Sagaral
LEO II, RPLO

RP hits it big in Seoul fair

THE PHILIPPINES bagged the Most Prominent Exhibitor and Best Folklore Performance at the Korean tourism fair held in Seoul, South Korea last week.

The Philippines bested 50 countries represented by some 500 organizations, according to Department of Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who led a 47-member delegation to the exhibition.

The country featured a fashion show, and song and dance numbers before some 15,000 traders and 100,000 visitors.

Gordon and the delegates were around to convince the visitors to come to the Philippines and discover what awaits them when they visit the country's tourist attractions.

"We have shown other exhibitors, potential investors and tourists why a visit to the Philippines would be well worth their time, effort and money," said Gordon in a press statement.

"Judging from the warm response our show in Seoul generated, it is my hope that this would nudge more Korean tourists to visit the country," he said.

The delegation set up a 210-square-meter booth showcasing DOT's Wow! Philippines campaign.

Architect Bobby Manosa designed the booth. Manosa had designed, among others, the world-famous Coconut Palace at the CCP Complex in Pasay City.

Gordon also told potential investors how they could base or establish operations in the Philippines.

Many of the inquiries the tourism chief received pertained to island resort and golf course development.

Gordon also explained in detail the tourism free tax zone where the investors can get various incentives.

Koreans rank third in visitor arrivals in the Philippines, the DOT said.

The number of Koreans visiting the Philippines has also increased dramatically, posting a 49-percent rise in arrivals for January this year compared to last year.

In the same month last year, 26,437 Koreans visited the Philippines.

"Korean arrivals in the Philippines have consistently risen and we thank them for their confidence in the country," Gordon said.

Jerome Aning

Manila Water

Fourteen-hour water interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, and Pasig due to large pipe projects

Manila Water announced there will be a 14-hour water service interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong City and Pasig City beginning 10:00 pm, Saturday, May 11, 2002 up to 12:00 noon, Sunday, May 12. The San Juan Pumping Station will shut down operation to allow for the interconnection of the 1.7-meter-in-diameter Aqueduct Number 2.

The following areas will have no water during the period:

Quezon City: Bagong Lipunan, Camp Crame, Murphy, West Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Mariana, Martin De Porres, Kaunlaran, Immaculate Concepcion, St. Ignatius, White Plains, Ugong Norte, Blue Ridge A and B, Libis, Green Meadows, Valle Verde VI, Corinthian Garden, Corinthian Hills and Greenwich Subdivision.

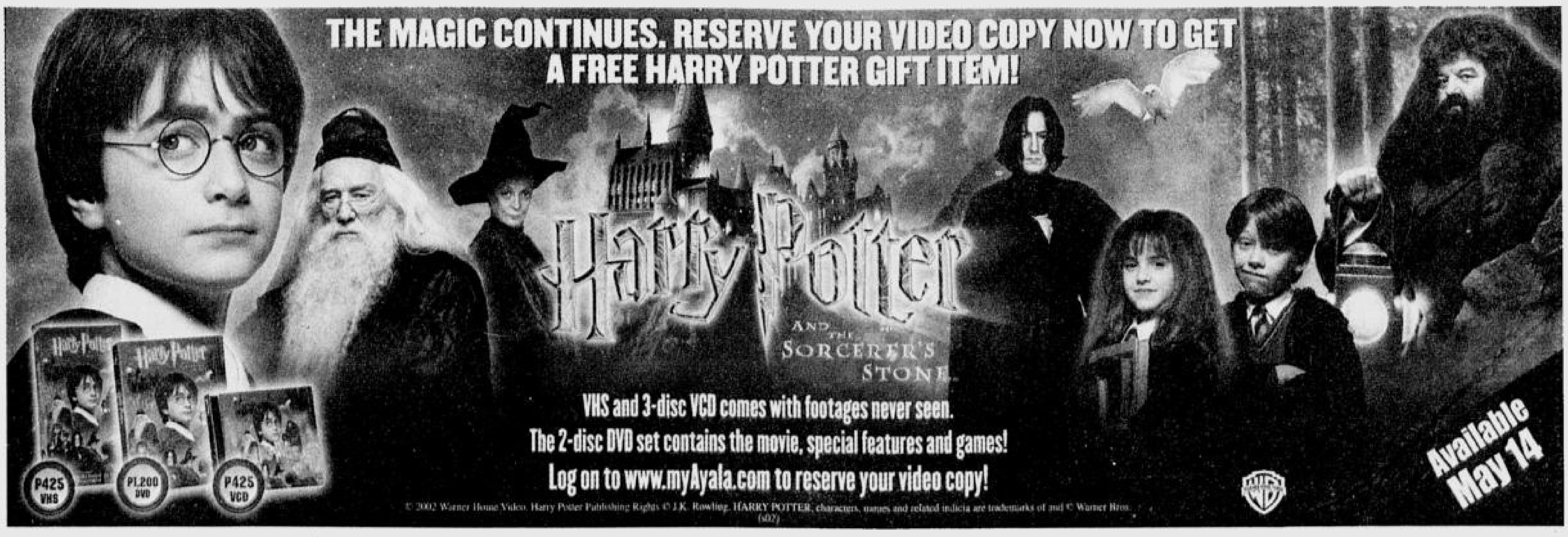
San Juan: Horseshoe, Greenhills, Ortigas Center, Valencia, Pasadena, Barangay Onse, Little Baguio and Sta. Lucia, Kaunlaran, Kanluran, San Martin, Immaculate Concepcion, Pinagkaisahan, Socorro, San Roque, Dioquino, Bayanihan, Villa Maria and Clara St.

Mandaluyong City: Ortigas Center, EDSA Central, Highway Hills, Buwayang Bato, Malamig, Mauway, Plainview, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Itaas, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Drive, Wack-Wack,Pleasant Hills, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato Libis, Burol and Harapin ang Bukas.

Pasig: Valle Verde, San Antonio Village, Pioneer Center area and Barangay Kapitolyo.

Residents of the affected areas are advised to store enough water for their use prior to the schedule of the water interruption.
For the latest update, please call our **Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.**

Inquirer -- May 10, 2002



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Kidman, Roberts star in 'most beautiful' list

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood stars Nicole Kidman, Julia Roberts and Halle Berry won starring roles in People Magazine's annual list of the world's 50 most beautiful people, the publication said Thursday.

The list, which appears in this week's edition of the celebrity mag that hits the US newsstands on Friday, also features a battalion of other entertainment stars and even a British royal and a US politician.

Australian beauty Kidman, divorced last year from superstar Tom Cruise, made the magazine's cover, offering her possible consolation for having missed out on this year's best actress Oscar to Halle Berry.

Berry, the first black star to win the top Academy Award, also made the list, along with this year's best actor Oscar winner Denzel Washington.

"Pretty Woman" star Roberts, who is also said to be Hollywood's most powerful woman, made the 13th edition of the list for a record seventh time, along with "Black Hawk Down" star Josh Hartnett and diva Alicia Keyes.

KIDMAN

ROBERTS

Also featuring on the list was the daughter of Britain's Princess Royal – and granddaughter of Queen Elizabeth II — Zara Phillips, 20, who sports a tongue piercing and lives openly with her boyfriend.

Another British culinary whiz and journalist Nigella Lawson also appeared on the list, as did the organizer of this year's Salt Lake City Olympic Games, Mitt Romney, who is considering running for the post of governor of Massachusetts.

Two Hollywood-based Australian actors Hugh Jackman and Simon Baker also featured as among the 50 most delectable people on earth, as did best supporting actress winner Jennifer Connelly, actress Cameron Diaz and former supermodel Cindy Crawford. ***AFP***

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

Kris Aquino's column will return next week.

Great disparity in different film award groups' verdicts

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

NOT a few film buffs have expressed their confusion and consternation, resulting from the disparate and sometimes even contradictory lists of winners announced by our different film awards groups in recent years. This brief backgrounder may help put the situation in perspective:

Decades ago, there was only one major awards group, the Famas, but it got mired in so much controversy and suspicion that a second award the Urian, was initiated by the country's film reviewers, the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino.

For a time, the Famas and the Urian gave film lovers clear options of which award to favor. Later, however, other awards groups cropped up, making the situation more complicated.

But things were relatively in control because the different groups' lists of winners were more or less consistent. Of late, however, we note a great disparity in their verdicts, thus confusing the public and making it unclear which awards should be used as genuine touchstones for excellence in local cinematic achievement.

Of course, the awards groups involved plead freedom of choice and a "healthy" divergence of opinions. They claim that awards are basically subjective and dependent on which criteria a group is using to evaluate the year's output of movies. But, is this really the case?

There *are* more objective criteria to follow, but some awards groups eschew them, either because they have extraneous factors to consider, or their jurors' verdicts have been compromised by lack of competence or objectivity.

How can the confusing situation be rationalized? Award-giving groups should review their systems and motivations, and remind themselves that their main cause for being is to reward excellence, and in so doing, give the viewing public reliable standards that they can use in evaluating the movies they view.

If they have strayed from these standards and intentions, they should rectify the way they do things starting this year.

Otherwise, the viewing public may lose faith in film awards, and cease to give them the attention they deserve. This would further mess up the already unenlightened film-viewing situation in this country.

Local viewers need touchstones to help them tell good films from bad, but if film awards are used for subjective ends, little such help will be forthcoming, and film buffs may throw up their hands and opt to make-do with no film awards at all.

'Chasing Time'

ON the National Geographic Network every Friday at 10 p.m., "Chasing Time" is based on the hip weekly magazine about what's happening in the world's biggest cities at any given time. The series is in the reality TV mode.

Each week, two contestants are dropped off in a different city and challenged to find a number of things or visit places off the beaten track. Winners get a weekend stay in the city's finest hotels, while losers are sent home on the next plane out.

Disney Buzz in Manila

FROM May 17 to 19, and 24 to 26, Disney Buzz hosts **Jien**, **Azura** and **Karen** will showcase the Philippines, and even wear our national costumes and visit scenic and historical sites in Manila. Don't miss these treats on The Disney Channel.

Ruffa leaves for Cannes, Monaco, L.A., Japan

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

RUFFA Gutierrez has apparently gotten used to the jet-set lifestyle. Today, you see her in Manila, the next day she flies out of the country to go to London or Los Angeles. The following week, she either cruises on a luxury yacht off to an island coast or goes sailing in the French Riviera.

Today, Ruffa leaves for France to attend the Cannes Film Festival. After that, she's off to the Monaco Grand Prix then back to L.A.

First week of June, Ruffa will join her dad **Eddie** in Japan for a series of shows.

She expects to return to Manila before her birthday on June 24. Although there's nothing planned yet for her birthday, Ruffa says she wants to celebrate this year.

Yesterday, Ruffa's Turkish boyfriend, **Yilmaz Bektas** came to Manila to fetch her for her trip to Cannes today.

Before she left, Ruffa became visible again on the boobtube and accepted a number of TV guestings. Although it may take some time before she is seen on the big screen again, Ruffa is not closing her doors on another local movie offer. In fact, she is looking forward to doing another movie again if her schedule will allow her.

Ruffa will soon be seen on huge billboards around Metro Manila as the image model of Gandang Ricky Reyes, for the chain of salon owned by the noted hairstylist. It was her mom, **Annabelle Rama**, a loyal customer of Ricky Reyes, who convinced Ruffa to accept the offer.

"It's only a friendship contract," says Ricky when asked about Ruffa's talent fee. "Annabelle has always been coming to my parlors and I talked to her if we could have Ruffa as image model. It only took one visit to their house and not too long after, Ruffa was already doing a pictorial for me."

As part of her agreement, Ruffa will join the various charitable projects of Ricky whenever she's in the country.

"She put up this Roof-a-Child Foundation for street children," Ricky explains. "We can now work hand in hand to continue what she started and help more children."

'24 K'

JUDY Ann Santos is turning 24 with a bang. ABS-CBN will air a TV special, "24 K," at 9 tonight, as a treat for her friends and legions of fans.

Since she became a certified star in the ABS-CBN soap series "Mara Clara," Judy Ann has undoubtedly gained a loyal following. She did a record of four hit mini-series for the network, including "Esperanza," "Judy Ann Drama Special" and the current "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," which only increased her fan base.

Judy Ann has also conquered the silver screen with an enviable string of box-office hits. She has proven her versatility both in drama and comedy. She even ventured into recording and came out with a hit album.

The TV special, "24 K," allows viewers to take a peak at Juday off camera—what is she like as a businesswoman, daughter, friend and what she does in her spare time.

"24 K" also proves why Judy Ann's show biz family loves her so much that they all decided to participate in the tribute.

Taped from a live presentation at the UP Theater, "24 K" boasts of an all-star lineup composed of Judy Ann's friends in and out of show biz, her favorite leading men and the stars she has worked with.

The stellar list of personalities includes comedy king **Dolphy**, megastar **Sharon Cuneta** (who is her costar in the upcoming film, "Magkapatid"), "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka" costars **Edu Manzano, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Connie Reyes**, "Esperanza" costars **Charo Santos-Concio** and **Marvin Agustin**, "G-mik" costar **Bojo Molina**, best friend **Gladys Reyes** and friends **Sunshine Cruz, Ruffa Gutierrez, Bayani Agbayani, Smokey Manaloto** and **Vhong Navarro**.

Judy Ann's family members—Mommy **Carol**, brother **Jeffrey** and niece **JD**—will also make a special appearance, as well as her childhood friends.

The two men rumored to be closest to Judy Ann's heart—**Piolo Pascual** and **Dingdong Dantes**—will likewise join the tribute.

Unfortunate incident

I HAD an unfortunate incident at the Headzone Salon at Westin Philippine Plaza recently, when I went there for my hair and make-up before I attended a wedding at the San Agustin Church.

I left my pair of white gold earrings on the counter beside the makeup kit of hairstylist **Sam Santos**, who did my hair and makeup. I removed my earrings when a guy named **Ernie** shampooed my hair. I even told Ernie to remind me to get my earrings from the counter. I placed the earrings right beside the glass of iced tea that was offered to me.

GUTIERREZ. Gandang Ricky Reyes.

But after I changed into my outfit for the wedding, I totally forgot about my earrings. When my friend saw me in church, she asked me why I was not wearing earrings. Only then did I remember that I had left my earrings in the parlor, but it was too late to call since they close at 7:30 p.m.

When I called up the next morning, I talked to the receptionist, **Princess**, who promised to call me back after talking to Sam or Ernie. I got a call before noon and Sam told me he already asked the staff but no one found the earrings.

I told Sam I hate to accuse anyone, but someone was lying in their parlor. Middle of the afternoon last Friday, I got a call in the office from Headzone Westin manager **Rowena Salao**, who said she had made an investigation but it yielded no earrings.

She even offered to pay for my jewelry, but I declined. I told her I also left a pair of earrings at the parlor of **Bambbi Fuentes** in Timog, Quezon City last year, but hair stylist **Tongee** had kept it for me and I got my earrings back. Actually, it took me four days to get them back, but I was so relieved.

Rowena vouched for the honesty of the staff and said that was the first time it happened in the parlor. She said even foreign customers leave their things at Headzone and still manage to get them back. But Rowena refused to ignore my complaint and told me she believes "the customer is always right."

Rowena said she always tells the staff to advise customers never to remove any piece of jewelry when inside the parlor.

Rowena's brother-in-law, **Joseph Salao**, owns Headzone. Joseph was the classmate of my friend **Ivy** at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

I hate to hear my friend **Shirley** chastising me (again) for carelessness.

RUFFA/ A31

ABSOLUTE MAYNIA!
JOEY decks the flower month with a Festive array of bar hops, big movie Events and new weekend programs!

Joey's MOVIE SERIES
Enclosed spaces and clone encounters strike fear on the big screen as Joey brings two blockbuster movie events this May!

STAR WARS EPISODE II ATTACK OF THE CLONES
MAY 12 - 7:30 PM
ROBINSON'S GALLERIA CINEMA 1
A special preview for the benefit of NBC Foundation's Batang Pinoy.

JODIE FOSTER
PANIC ROOM
MAY 27 - 7:30 PM
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

Joey's Acoustic Nights
featuring ACOUSTIC TRIO
May 22/29 - 9PM
MIRO - MERALCO AVENUE

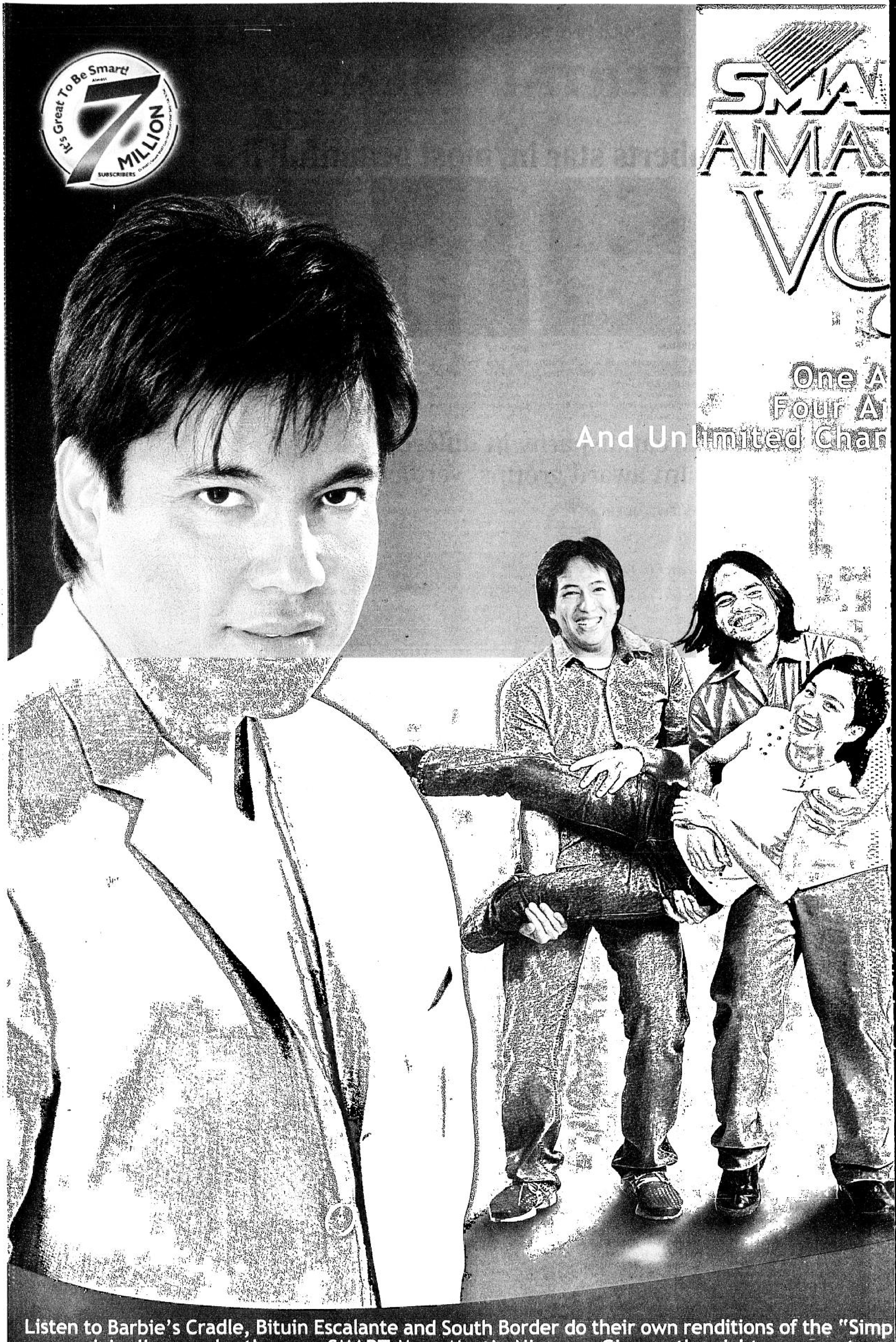
Joey's Night Rhythms
featuring VINCE LAHORRA & ROMY JOROLAN
May 20 & 27 - 8:30 pm
Gillespies, Shangri-La EDSA Hotel

SMASH WEEKEND PROGRAMMING
SEVENTIES SWING-OUT
SATURDAYS 9-10:30PM

from the decade of big hair and big hits comes your favorite dance tracks!
ONLY IN THE 80's
SATURDAYS 10:30-12MN

exercise your right to relax with a burst of blissful, atmospheric & down-tempo grooves perfect for cooling down.
featuring the music of anton ramos & the chillout project.
LICENSE TO CHILL
FRIDAYS 9-12MN

JOEY @ 92.3 Rhythms METRO MANILA
who your radio should be.



Listen to Barbie's Cradle, Bituin Escalante and South Border do their own renditions of the "Simp song originally sung by the new SMART Man, Martin Nievera. Give us the right answers to ou and you may win a brand new SMART Buddy celfone!

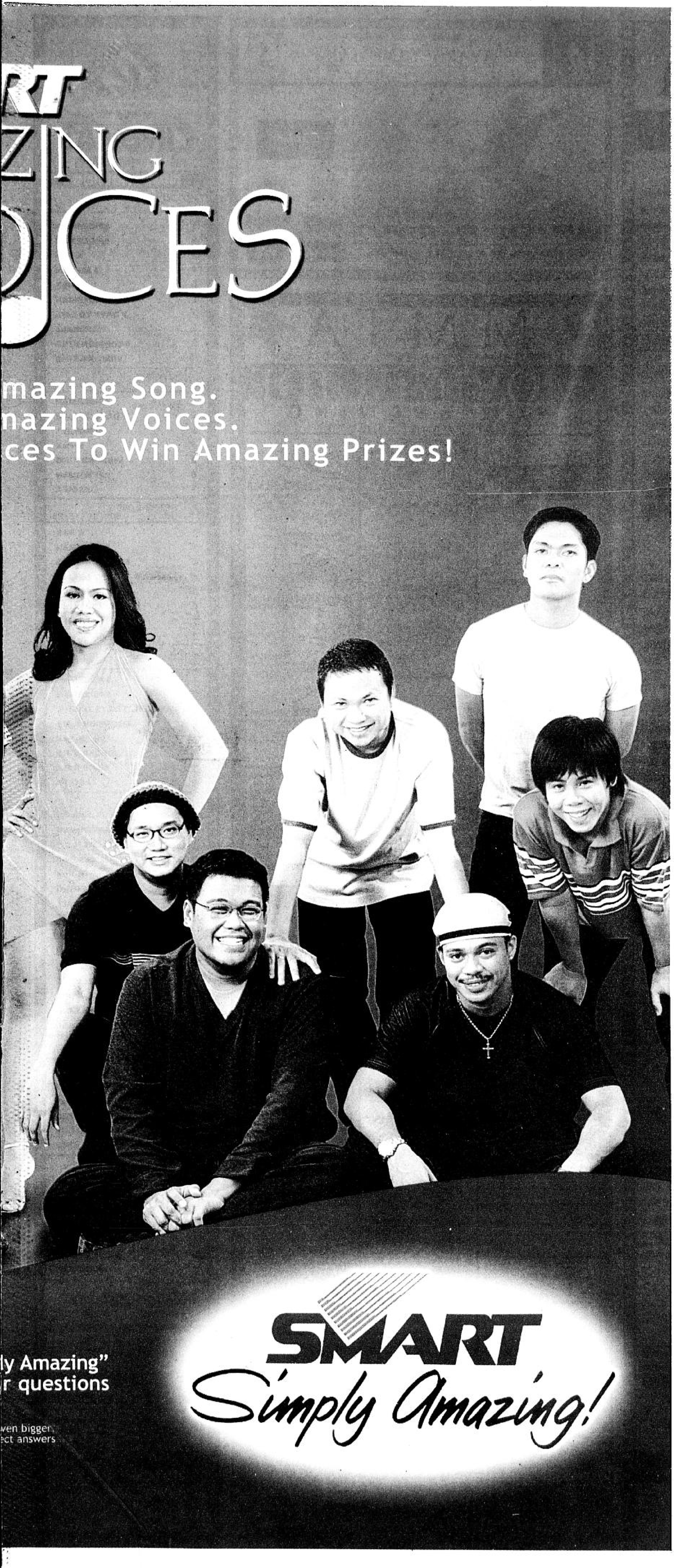
In celebration of its almost 7 million subscribers*, SMART is launching three new versions of the "Simply Amazing" song. It's all about life made amazing with SMART. And to make this event e SMART is giving away 5 SMART Buddy Ericsson A3618 celfones everyday, for fifteen days! Earn raffle points by answering questions about SMART and the song correctly. The more corr you text in, the more chances you have of winning. So listen closely to the lyrics of the song in these radio stations:

Metro Manila: Joey 92.3, 89.9 DWTM, 93.9 KCFM, WAVE 89.1 and RX 93.1 • Cebu: Y101 • Davao: Danni 101.9

Register now and start answering those questions from May 13 to 27, 2002.

For questions, comments or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111, e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

*On SMART's Network: SMART Gold, SMART ACeS, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers



HERE'S HOW YOU CAN WIN!

1. REGISTER FIRST.

Key in VOICES <your name> / <your address> and send to 211.

Example: VOICES Rex Lopez / 108 Legaspi Street, Makati City

Your SMART GSM celfone number will serve as your raffle entry identification (ID). There can only be one registered name under your celfone number. Once you join, no one else will be allowed to register using your celfone number unless you quit the game and somebody else uses it. In the event that your celfone number wins and there are two names registered under your celfone number within the same day, the last name registered will be recognized as the winner. However, you can register using several celfone numbers at the same time.

2. GET THE DAILY QUESTION.

Once you register, you automatically receive your first daily question which is free of charge.

After you get your first daily question, you will receive daily reminders to download.the daily questions in the succeeding days of the promo.

3. TEXT IN THE RIGHT ANSWER.

Simply key in the letter of your answer and send to 211.

Example: Fill in the missing lyric/s from the Simply Amazing song:

SMART is Simply ________!
A. Exciting
B. Amazing
C. Thrilling

Sample Answer: B

If your answer is correct, you will receive a message of confirmation.

Example: "You're really smart! You have 1 raffle entry. Keep sending the correct answer to 211 for more chances of winning a SMART Buddy Ericsson A3618!"

If your answer is incorrect, you will receive a message informing you that your answer is incorrect.

Example: "The answer is just within the 2 other choices. Choose correctly to earn raffle entries for more chances of winning a SMART Buddy Ericsson A3618!"

One correct answer is equivalent to one raffle entry.

4. CHECK HOW WELL YOU'RE DOING.

To receive your updated number of raffle entries, key in VOICES and send to 211.

* Every message sent is charged P2.50.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

1. The SMART Amazing Voices Promo is open to all SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers.
2. Only correct answers received by 12 midnight each day will be included in the daily raffle draw.
3. There will be five (5) winners nationwide of the SMART Buddy Ericsson A3618 celfone. All daily draws will be done from May 14-28, 2002 at 3:00 in the afternoon at the 27/F SMART Tower, 6799 Ayala Ave., Makati City.
4. All winners will be notified through a congratulatory text message, a call and a registered mail. From the date of the receipt of the letter of the notification, the winners have sixty (60) days to claim their prize. Prizes not claimed within the given period will be forfeited.
5. To claim your prize, simply present your SMART celfone with the congratulatory text message, your letter of notification and a valid ID (e.g. Driver's license, passport, company ID) to DDB Philippines at 9/F Legaspi Suites, 108 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.
6. Provincial winners may claim their prize at the local SMART Wireless Centers. Its address will be included in the notification letter.
7. Participants can only win once in the daily raffle draw but are entitled to many chances of winning during the entire promotion period. Should the winner's name be drawn more than once in the daily draw, another entry will be drawn in its place.
8. Employees of SMART Communications, Inc. Telecom Specialist's Inc, and Pilipino Telephone Corporation and their respective advertising agencies, as well as non-revenue SMART special subscribers including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
9. Promo period is from 7:00 am, May 13 to 11:59 pm, May 27, 2002.

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10	CLOSED
11	CLOSED
12	CLOSED

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9	7 DAYS TO LIVE
10	SPIDERMAN

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8	SPIDERMAN

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1	RIPPER
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5	VIDEOKE KING
6	SPIDERMAN
7	CLOSED
8	SCORPION KING

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2	SPIDERMAN
3	I AM SAM
4	DEVIL'S MASK
5	RETURN TO NEVERLAND
6	VIDEOKE KING

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4	SPIDERMAN

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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2	JASON-X
3	HARDBALL
4	VIDEOKE KING

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6 GOLD (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
8	VIDEOKE KING
9	K-PAX
10	7 DAYS TO LIVE

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5	RESERVE
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2	BUKANG BIBIG
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5	SCORPION KING
6	SPIDERMAN
7	
8	

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1	K-PAX

Center Plaza Cinema
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2	SCORPION KING

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3	RESERVE

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1	
A	VIDEOKE KING

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(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

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2	VIDEOKE KING
3	
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3	RESERVE
4	HARDBALL
5	JASON-X
6	7 DAYS TO LIVE
7 (DTS)	K-PAX
8 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
9 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN

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2	VIDEOKE KING

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* (Caloocan) tel 364.3781

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2	SABAYAN SA LABAN
3	HARDBALL
4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
5	SPIDERMAN
6 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
7 (DTS)	JASON X
8	BUKANG BIBIG
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Talaba Bacoor Cavite

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3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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3 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
4	I AM SAM

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
4	I AM SAM

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2	SHOWTIME
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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2	SPIDERMAN
3 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
4 (DTS)	SHOWTIME

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

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2	BUKANG BIBIG
3	KALARO
4 (DTS)	VIDEOKE KING

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
2	VIDEOKE KING
3 (DTS)	I AM SAM
4	BUKANG BIBIG
5	RIPPER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	SPIDERMAN
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG

Olivarez Los Baños
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2	VIDEOKE KING
3	BUKANG BIBIG

Olivarez Tagaytay
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2	SCORPION KING
3	GAWIN SA DILIM

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3

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2 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN

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1

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(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

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2	SPIDERMAN
3	SPIDERMAN

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2	SCORPION KING
3	SHOWTIME
4	VIDEOKE KING

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3 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
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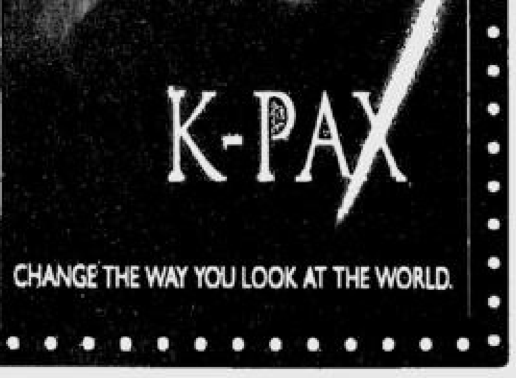

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7	7 DAYS TO LIVE
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9	SCORPION KING
10	VIDEOKE KING

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1	SPIDERMAN
2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
3	HARDBALL
4	K-PAX
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	SPIDERMAN
7	JASON-X

Metro East -
Marcos Hway
682- 8193 / 8280

1	K-PAX
2	SPIDERMAN
3	SCORPION KING
4	I AM SAM / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
5	SPIDERMAN
6	VIDEOKE KING
7	JASON-X
8	HARDBALL

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	SPIDERMAN
2	SPIDERMAN
3	I AM SAM / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
4	SCORPION KING
5	K-PAX
6	VIDEOKE KING
7	HARD BALL
8	JASON-X

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	SPIDERMAN
2	KAPIRASONG GUBAT / 7 DAYS TO LIVE
3	JASON-X
4	K-PAX
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	HARDBALL

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	SPIDERMAN
2	HART'S WAR
3	BLADE 2
4	BLOW DRY
5	VIDEOKE KING
6	SCORPION KING / ICE AGE

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	SPIDERMAN
2	SHOWTIME
3	SPIDERMAN
4	RIPPER
5	GOOD ADVICE
6	VIDEOKE KING

Star Mills-
Sn Fernando, Pamp.
875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	I AM SAM
2	VIDEOKE KING
3	SPIDERMAN
4	SCORPION KING
5	DEVIL'S MASK
6	SPIDERMAN

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Ronnie Poe, Nora and Vilma toast 25 years of Gawad Urian

FERNANDO Poe Jr., Nora Aunor and Vilma Santos lead the stellar cast of superstars when the Manunuri ng Pelikulang Pilipino, the society of respected film critics, hands out the silver edition of the Gawad Urian, the country's most highly regarded awards for motion picture excellence, tomorrow, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Araneta Coliseum. The awards will be broadcast over RPN 9.

Five celebrated movies are competing for best picture: Chito Roño's gritty underworld thriller "La Vida Rosa" (Star Cinema), Lav Diaz's five-hour expatriate parable "Batang Westside" (JCMC), Jose Javier Reyes' controversial "Live Show" (Regal Films) and poignant "Minsan May Isang Puso" (Regal), and Joel Lamangan's slum drama "Hubog" (MACQ and Regal)

Nominated for best actress are Maricel Soriano ("Mila"), Rosanna Roces ("La Vida Rosa"), Assunta de Rossi ("Hubog"), Jaclyn Jose ("Minsan May Isang Puso") and Mylene Dizon ("Gatas").

Nominated for best actor are Joel Torre ("Westside"), Diether Ocampo ("La Vida"), Paulo Rivero ("Live Show"), Carlo Aquino and Ricky Davao ("Minsan"), Cesar Montano ("Bagong Buwan"), and Mark Anthony Fernandez ("Dos Ekis").

Sponsored by Sunsilk, Touch Mobile, U-Care Milk, Chowking, Alaska and Tide, the highlight of the celebration is the parade of past winners of the Urian's acting categories. Segment anchor is Richard Gomez, one of the top actors of the 1990s during the Gawad Dekada last year.

Another highlight is the tribute to Fernando Poe Jr, who will receive the Natatanging Gawad (Lifetime Achievement Award).

Still another much-awaited highlight is the Gawad Pinilakan, the Top 10 movies of the last 30 years. Multi-Urian winners Lorna Tolentino, Christopher de Leon and Philip de Leon will announce the critics' all-time choices.

Sharon Cuneta and Kris Aquino will host segments. Anchors are Gelli de Belen and Ryan Agoncillo.

Master of ceremonies is dapper and witty Edu Manzano.

Aunor and Santos lead the list of presenters, that include Maricel Soriano, Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero, Cogie Domingo, Sunshine Dizon, Roxanne Barcelo, Biboy Ramirez, Helen Gamboa, Pilar Pilapil and many others.

Janno Gibbs will lead the opening number, a rousing tribute to the various Philippine film genres. Other performers are Aiza Seguerra, Jolina Magdangal, Sunshine Cruz, Geneva Cruz, Allan K, Streetboys, Regine Tolentino, Francis Magalona, Grace Nono, Joey Ayala, Dyan de la Fuente, Carol Banawa, Dulce, Bituin Escalante and the UP Concert Chorus.

The 25th Gawad Urian is produced by Antonio Tuviera's APT Entertainment Inc. Executive producer is Malou Choa Fragal and director is Ma. Elena Rivera.

Ruffa . . .

From page A27

I consider the unfortunate Headzone experience a lesson learned. I appreciate the concern of Rowena, who listened to me, apologized and asked what she could do. But I still didn't get my earrings back.

That was my second bad experience at Westin. In January of 2001, I lost my Nokia 8210 cellphone on the table during the wedding reception of my younger sister.

Ad Faces screening

AD FACES Productions, the group behind the prestigious Ad Faces modeling competition, announces the formal screening for this year's contest.

Ad faces is the modeling tilt that launched to fame newcomers such as Justin Cuyugan, now an ABS-CBN contract star who became a household name when he portrayed Claudine Barreto's gay friend Dondi in the top-rating soap "Hanggang sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan."

Other Ad Faces discoveries include 2001 Binibining Pilipinas runner-up Nicole Hofer (now also an ABS-CBN talent), leading commercial models Bea Herrera and Robert Tan Torres, Passage Band vocalist Kathrina Agarrado (who revived the Ella Mae Saison hit "Till My Heartaches End") and Michael Pamular, a member of the new boy group Boyz-town, managed by Manny Valera.

Screening schedules are on May 10, 11, 18 and 19 at Hard Rock Café Makati from 1-6 p.m.

The screening is open to young boys and girls ages 15 to 21 years old. Minimum height requirement is at least 5'2" for girls and 5'6" for boys.

For application forms, call Ad Faces Productions at 433-5301 to 02 and look for Michelle Chua. Or call project director Mell Navarro at 0916-306-6376.

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SPIDERMAN - GP: 12:40, 3:20, 6:00, 8:40, 11:20
JASON X - P13: 1:20, 3:25, 5:30, 7:35, 9:40
SPIDERMAN - GP: 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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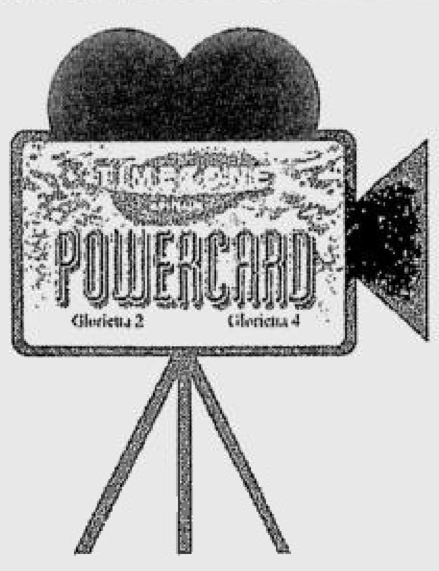
ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	VIDEOKE KING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	7 DAYS TO LIVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	JASON X
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	HARDBALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	K-PAX
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	SPIDERMAN
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ESKANDALOSA / TEQUILA BODY SHOT
ODEON	JASON-X
ODEON-2	BUKANG BIBIG
ROBEN	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	GLASS HOUSE / DOMESTIC DISTURBANCE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
REMAR	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
REMAR-2	BUKANG BIBIG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	VIDEOKE KING
B	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	I AM SAM
CINEMA-2	BUKANG BIBIG
CINEMA-3	VIDEOKE KING
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	7 DAYS TO LIVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HARDBALL
CINEMA-6	BENEATH LOCHNESS
CINEMA-7	KAPIRASONG GUBAT
CINEMA-8	SCORPION KING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-12	K-PAX
CINEMA-14	JASON X
CINEMA-15	VIDEOKE KING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	K-PAX
CINEMA-2	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-3	HARDBALL
CINEMA-4	SPIDERMAN
CINEMA-5	JASON X
CINEMA-6	SPIDERMAN
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID



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3 HARDBALL
4 SPIDERMAN

G4 (GLORIETTA 4)
1 SPIDERMAN
2 SPIDERMAN
3 SPIDERMAN 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 JASON-X
5 K-PAX
6 SPIDERMAN
7 HARDBALL

GB1 (GREENBELT 1)
1 K-PAX
2 SPIDERMAN
3 SPIDERMAN
4 Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31 & June 1

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2 SPIDERMAN
3 HARDBALL
4 SPIDERMAN
5 K-PAX

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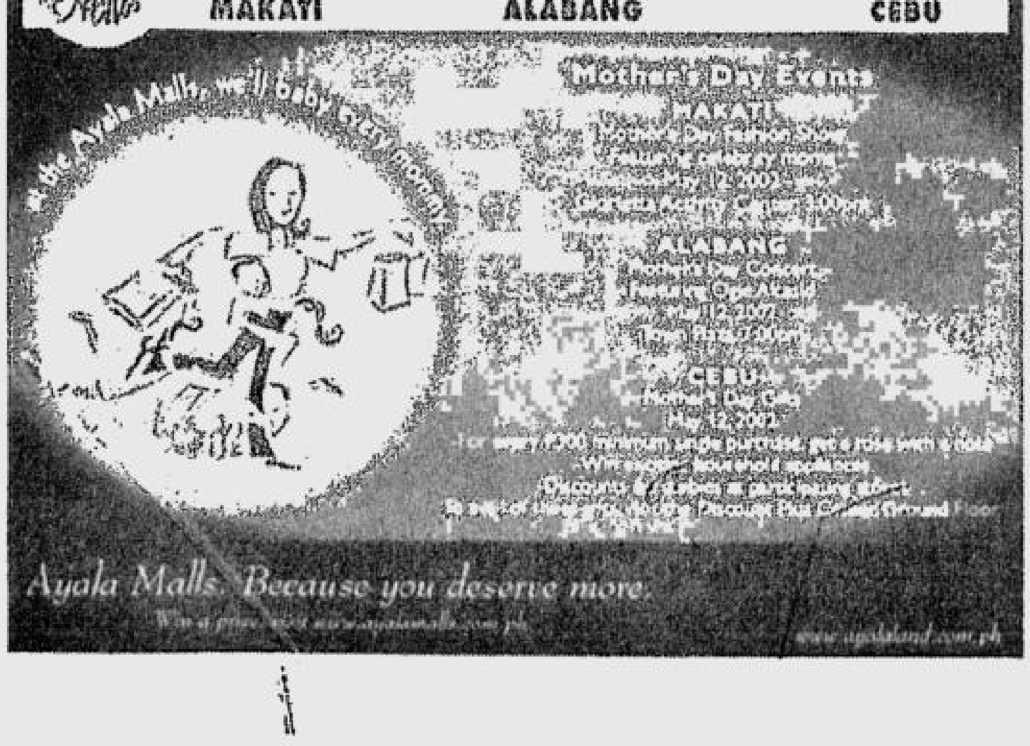

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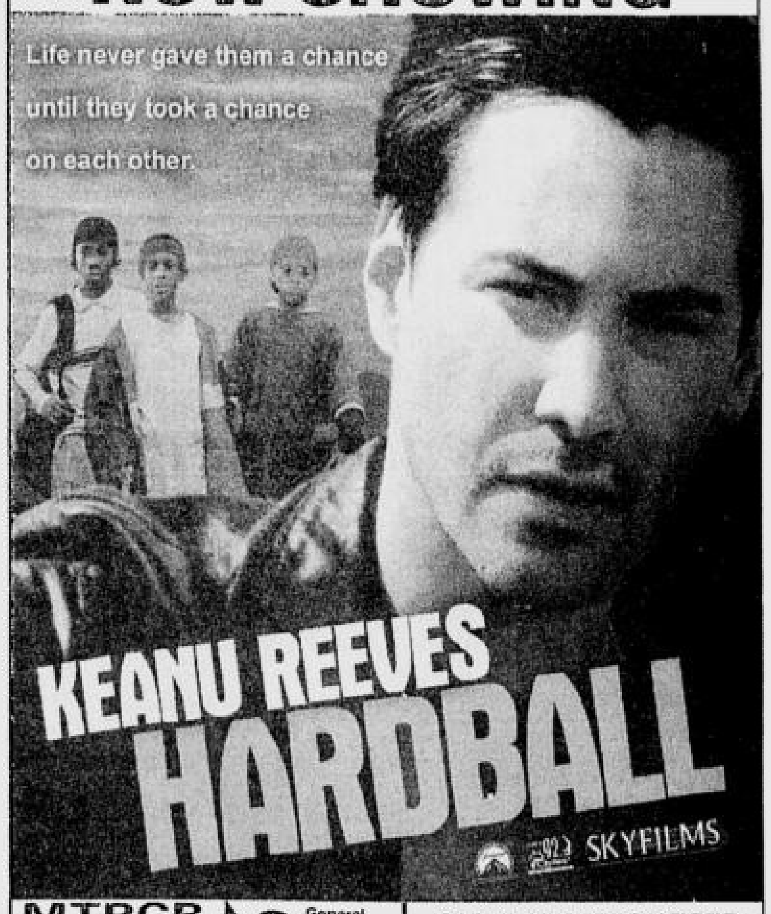
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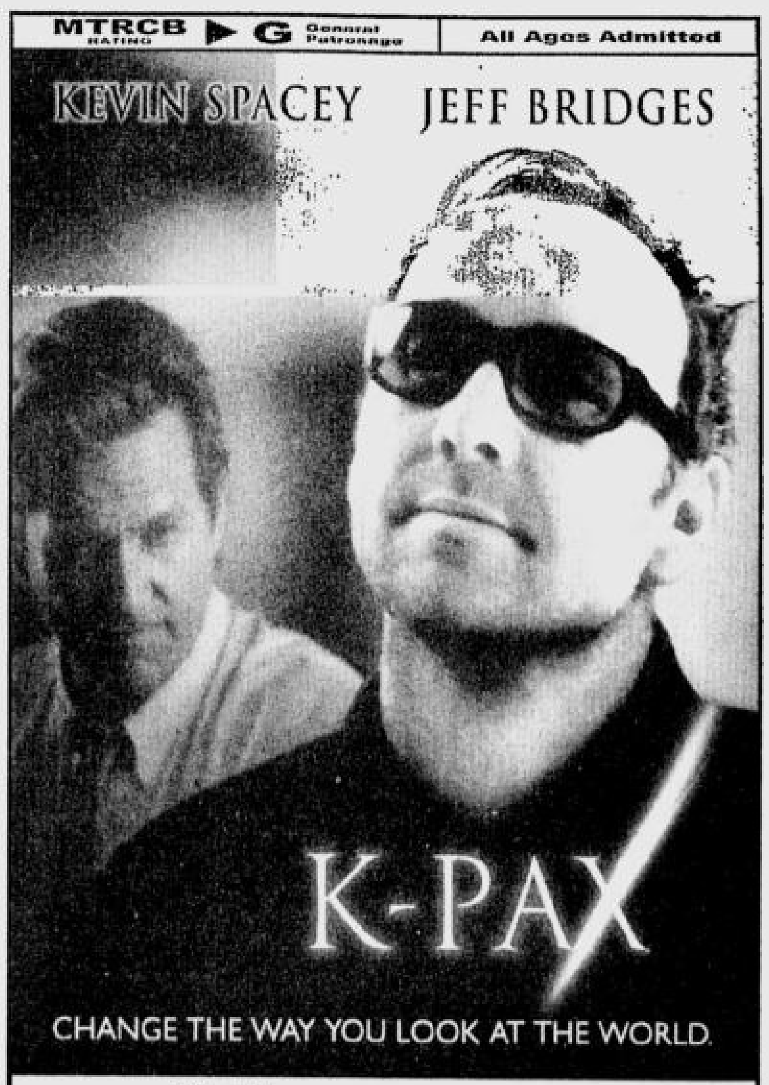
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Gov't vows to open up telecom sector

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT has assured the United States that it would push for the liberalization of the telecommunications industry to allow 100-percent foreign ownership in the proposed constitutional convention after the presidential elections in 2004.

In his speech during the opening of COMMASIA 2002 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila, Communication Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon said the constitutional limitations on foreign ownership in telecommunication were among the main concerns raised by Washington.

"We told the US government that the Philippine government would address its concerns on foreign equity restrictions soon and this might be included in the proposed Concon," Bengzon said.

US Department of Commerce deputy assistant secretary Chilling Tong is currently in the country to discuss the Americans' concerns on the Philippine trade and investment policies, specifically foreign ownership restrictions in telecommunications and the tax system on vehicles.

Foreigners are limited to 40-percent equity in telecommunication firms under the Philippine Constitution.

In its latest National Estimate on Free Trade Barriers, the US Trade Representative noted that the Philippines made basic commitments on most telecommunications services and adopted pro-competitive regulatory principles. However, the USTR noted the Philippines did not sign the agreement and did not provide market access or national treatment for satellite services commitments and made no promises on the resale of leased circuits or closed user groups.

Bengzon said he told the visiting US trade officials of the constitutional ban on foreign ownership of media companies which was likely to face stiff resistance, but the Americans replied that they were not too concerned on this issue.

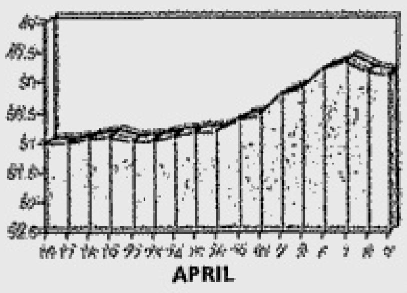
He stressed that opening up the telecommunications industry would benefit not only Americans but also other foreign investors that have expressed keen interest in putting up a wholly owned unit in the country. "We know there are a lot of interested foreign investors but they also know that competition is already tight in the country," Bengzon said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its subsidiary Smart Telecommunications Corp. dominate the fixed line and mobile communication businesses, respectively, in the country but they face stiff competition from Globe Telecoms and Digital Telecommunications Corp.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



GRAPHS BY SAMMY R. RENOSO

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As of 5 p.m., May 9, 2002

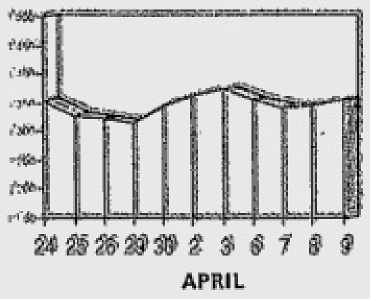
GOLD: $308.30/ 308.80

per ounce Hong Kong, May 9, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares end mixed

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



THE MAIN share index closed higher in a broadly mixed market yesterday, buoyed by Wall Street's strong rally, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was up 11.01 points, or 0.8 percent, at 1,356.80, adding to Wednesday's 0.2-percent rise.

Turnover edged up to P615.18 million from Wednesday's P613.89 million.

Wall Street's advance Wednesday inspired local demand for select blue chips.

Decliners still edged out gainers 29 to 27, while 50 issues were unchanged as some investors cashed in on short-term gains.

"Clearly it (the market gain) was due to the buoyancy of the Dow Jones and Nasdaq indices," said Mutual Fund Management Company of the Philippines president Efren Cruz.

Cruz said some players might have become excited over prospects for increased housing activity amid a cut-price war among banks for mortgage lending.

He added, however, that such competition could just result in a shift in market share of mortgage lending rather than boosting fresh loans.

Edison Yap, fund manager for Equitable PCI Bank, said confusion over President Macapagal-Arroyo's new directive issued Wednesday on power rates capped the market's upside yesterday. *AP, Reuters*

BIR misses 1st quarter collection target by ₱6B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue yesterday admitted that its collection from January to March was P6 billion short of the P99.5-billion target even as it exceeded last year's first-quarter earnings by P7 billion.

However, the government remained hopeful that despite the BIR's lower-than-expected revenues, the first-quarter deficit target of P52.933 billion would be met.

"We had a P6-billion shortfall in the first quarter compared to the target because some of the assumptions are no longer correct. For instance, interest rates have fallen tremendously," BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said in an interview.

The revenue agency would submit today to the Development Budget Coordinating Committee a detailed report justifying its request to reduce its annual collection target to P440 billion from P447.6 billion.

At the same time, the Department of Finance and the BIR are planning to resume the publication of the list of the top individual and corporate taxpayers as one of the measures to improve tax collection.

The BIR had ceased publishing the list of top taxpayers in 1998.

"We are thinking of reviving the publication of the top taxpayers list. We think it would help us in our campaign to encourage individuals, particularly the richer folks, to pay their taxes correctly," said a finance official.

Bañez said that other items, including the savings on debt servicing as a result of lower interest rates, could compensate for the BIR's lower collection. In the first quarter, the government said it realized P9.3 billion in savings on interest payments.

Minimal impact from El Niño seen this year

EL NIÑO, the weather phenomenon that parched swathes of Philippine croplands in 1998, will have only a minimal impact on the economy this year as it is not likely to surface until the fourth quarter, economists said.

It could temper 2003 growth in the farm sector, which accounts for about 20 percent of gross domestic product, but any effect on overall economic health will be counter-balanced by a forecast spurt in manufacturing as the world economy recovers, they said.

"We are assuming at this point that the El Niño (this year) is going to be relatively mild," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities in Singapore.

The government has forecast 2002 GDP growth at 4-4.5 percent. ***Reuters***

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World Bank urges RP to adopt reforms in infrastructure dev't

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE WORLD Bank has urged the Philippines to pursue a new set of reforms to boost private sector participation in infrastructure development which was estimated to require some $35 billion to $45 billion in fresh investments in the next 10 years.

Although the Philippines made considerable progress in infrastructure development in the last decade with its Build-Operate-and-Transfer (BOT) Law, it still lags behind other middle-income Asian countries in this field, the World Bank said in a recent policy review.

"Given its fiscal constraints, the government will not have the resources to fund the backlog itself," it said, noting that private sector participation in infrastructure development had waned as "risk perceptions increased after the Asian financial crisis."

Other than the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of June 2001—which aims to restructure and privatize the National Power Corp.'s generating assets, create a wholesale market for power and foster competition in retail customer markets—the review said there was but a few updates on the infrastructure reform agenda.

As such, the bank said the country would have to move on to the next stage of the reforms and address three key issues on private sector participation in infrastructure development or PPI.

The first of which is the issue involving the heavy contingent liabilities incurred in the implementation of the first set of PPI reforms, particularly the $2.5 billion to $3.75 billion in stranded costs arising from the contracts between the government and the independent power producers. The bank said it would be unwise for the government to continue its "large open-ended financial commitments to support PPI in the future."

The second issue raised by the bank was the concentration of PPI in big urban areas to the detriment of remote areas that received very little contribution. After the decentralization law of 1991, local government units (LGUs) assumed the responsibility of developing and maintaining infrastructure projects. However, only few of these LGUs have the financial and management capacity to do so, it said.

The third issue raised was the need for more regulatory reforms in each of the main infrastructure sectors—power, water, transport and telecommunications—to strengthen the institutions that would handle future infrastructure development.

The bank said the government must put greater emphasis on privatization to help minimize the need for guarantees; strengthen LGU capacity; and improve incentives for long-term domestic financing while reducing dependence on short-term foreign currency borrowings.

On the institutional aspect, the bank said the following reforms were needed:

- Strengthen the role of the Committee on Privatization as the main entity in disposing government assets;
- Review the future role of the BOT center in order to focus on promotion to potential investors;
- Simplify, standardize and make the process for selecting, soliciting, evaluating and awarding infrastructure projects more competitive and transparent;
- Establish arms-length regulatory agencies to make the private sector's long-term immobile investments less vulnerable to political pressures.

The bank said reforms in each of the four infrastructure sectors must also be broadened. Even after the privatization of Napocor, for instance, it said there would be a need to address the poor financial and managerial performance of electric cooperatives as well as to strengthen the National Electrification Administration and the Energy Regulatory Commission.

On the water sector, it said reforms should call for a shift in emphasis from BOT projects to the privatization of assets. The government was likewise urged to move toward transparent and solicited bidding in lieu of unsolicited bids as well as to segregate regulatory, policy and operational functions of government agencies involved in the sector.

The government was also asked to focus on encouraging PPI in the development of regional airports and ports as part of reforms on the transport sector.

On the telecommunication sector, the bank said reforms should standardize interconnection agreements, allow greater flexibility in the allocation of frequency by subjecting the use of the frequency spectrum to a public bidding, and ensure that new technologies are licensed promptly.

LBP posts growth in farm loans

By Christine A. Gaylican

LAND Bank of the Philippines' loans to the agriculture sector and small enterprises in the first quarter of the year reached P2.7 billion, up from P2.26 billion in the same period last year.

The bank's net income likewise rose to P568 million in the same period from last year's P485 million, Landbank president and CEO Margarito Teves said.

Landbank executive vice president for agrarian and domestic banking Gilda E. Pico said loans to the agrarian and domestic banking sector accounted for 41 percent of the bank's loan portfolio, up by 7 percent from P27.5 billion as of end-December 2001.

The bank's loan exposure to institutional banking sector was down to P13 billion in the first three months of the year, from P12 billion last year.

Court stops UOB from pursuing arbitration case in Australia

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court branch 46 recently issued a temporary restraining order preventing United Overseas Bank Ltd. and United Overseas Bank Philippines from pursuing an arbitration case before the Australian Commercial Disputes Center against the group of Jollibee Foods Corp. president and owner Antonio TanCaktiong and William TanUntiong.

UOBL and UOBP were seeking to collect the amount of P1.65 billion, exclusive of damages, for the 33-percent UOBP stake that the Tan group had allegedly agreed to subscribe to.

Representing other UOBP shareholders, John Espiritu, son of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, together with the Tan group, applied for the TRO and a preliminary injunction last April 30 to stop the Singapore-based group from pushing through with the Australian arbitration case.

Based on a copy of the TRO issued on May 7, the two groups said that the demand for payment for the entire subscription of the Tan group was "illogical and unfair."

They claimed that UOBL and UOBP knew that of the total subscription, 28 percent was actually held in trust by the Tan group in favor of the Espiritu group. However, they said that the Espiritu group could not yet pay its subscription because of the alleged failure of the two banks to comply with their obligations for the leveraged buy-out of the Espiritu group's controlling interest in Westmont Bank, now known as UOBP.

In his order, Judge Artemio Tipon directed UOBP and all persons acting on its behalf to temporarily desist from proceeding with the arbitration case and that a copy of the order be provided to the arbitrator appointed in the case.

The Espiritu and Tan groups filed a case with the Regional Trial Court to regain control of UOBP/Westmont or to get back certain receivables assigned to them pursuant to the agreement governing the leveraged buy-out or dilution of the Espiritu group's stake in the bank.

PAL defers backdoor listing plan

FLAG carrier Philippine Airlines has deferred its backdoor listing plan through dormant mining firm Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.

In yesterday's BGHC stockholders meeting, company director Jaime Bautista said the backdoor listing plan was deferred due to the adverse impact on PAL of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

"Right now, the company is in the process of reevaluating our investments in PAL. Everybody knows that the airline was affected by the Sept. 11 attacks," Bautista, who is also the chief finance officer of the Lucio Tan group of companies, said.

To date, BGHC has yet to finalize any agreement with the shareholders of PAL, which is 89.5-percent controlled by the group of tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, he said.

Bautista told reporters and analysts that BGHC was not pulling out its application with the Securities and Exchange Commission to change the company's corporate name to PAL Holdings Inc.

Under the strategy previously disclosed to the PSE, BGHC was to issue new shares in exchange for the acquisition of 90 percent of PAL's outstanding capital stock.

BGHC's capital stock will be initially increased from P400 million to P5 billion.

Tan acquired a 69-percent stake in BGHC, a dormant mining company formerly controlled by businessman Benjamin Bitanga.

Established in 1930 and listed on the stock exchange in 1954, BGHC was involved in mining and mineral exploration before it was converted into a holding company. It has since then diversified into real estate and oil exploration.

BGHC was the third listed company to be acquired by Tan. The two others were MacroAsia Corp., which is engaged in the aviation service business, and Asian Pacific Equity Corp., which was used as a backdoor listing vehicle for Tanduay Holdings Inc. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Tibayan Group, among SEC registered investment companies

By: Marjorie Teresa R. Perez

The Tibayan Group Investment Co., Inc., a member of the Tibayan financial conglomerate, is listed as one among the Philippine investment companies registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Aside from the Tibayan Group, other listed companies are: Abacus Growth Fund, Inc.; All Asia Fixed Income Fund, Inc.; All Asia Fund, Inc.; Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund, Inc.; Citisec Growth & Income Fund, Inc.; ECC Growth and Income Fund, Inc.; Far East Fund, Inc.; Filipino Fund, Inc.; GSIS Mutual Fund, Inc.;

Philam Bond Fund, Inc.; Philam Dollar Fund, Inc.; Philam Fund, Inc.; Philam Strategic Growth Fund, Inc.; Philequity Fund, Inc.; Philippine Growth Fund, Inc.; Sunlife of Canada Prosperity Balanced Fund, Inc.; Sun Life of Canada Prosperity Philippine Equity Fund, Inc.; The First Galleon Family Fund, Inc.;

The Mutual Fund Company of the Philippines, Inc.; The Pacific Fund, Inc.; United Fund, Inc.; Vantage Dollar Income Fund, Inc.; Vantage Money Market Fund, Inc.; and Vantage PSE Index Fund, Inc.

In a seminar on Corporate Recovery and Securities Regulation Code (SRC) hosted by the Philippine Securities Consultancy Corporation (PSCC) chaired by former SEC chairman Rosario N. Lopez, the Tibayan Group led by its Chairman Jesus V. Tibayan, joined and participated in the deliberation.

Tibayan echoed the meat of former Senator Raul Roco's sponsorship speech of the SRC when he said "Public confidence is the key to the development of the securities market."

SEC Chair Lilia R. Bautista is shown with UGC-Tibayan Group Chairman Jesus V. Tibayan and members of his management team.

ADVT.

DISCLOSURES

ORIENTAL Petroleum and Minerals Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 28, 4 p.m.

* * *

A.BROWN Co. Inc. bought 50,000 of its shares at P0.48 per share.

* * *

FIRST e-Bank denied reports that it was bought by **Bank of Commerce.** It said the agreement entered into by both banks was for both parties to hold extensive discussions on the proposal of Bank of Commerce.

* * *

CONCRETE Aggregates Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21, 8 a.m. at the boardroom of Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership, Ortigas Building, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 20 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

EDSA Properties Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 13, 10 a.m. at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel.

* * *

FILINVEST Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 1 p.m. at the FCC Marketing Office, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Only stockholders of record as of April 30 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

FILINVEST Land Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 9 a.m. at the FCC Marketing Office, Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang. Only stockholders of record as of April 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 28, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig City. Only stockholders of record as of April 26 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, May 9, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	69.5	69	69.5	137,500
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	430
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	38	37.5	37.5	102,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	199,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	40.5	41	39.5	40	143,300
Philippine National Bank	50	50	48	48	47,300
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.25	12.25	12	12	26,000
Security Bank Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	23	22.5	22.5	60,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.34	1.34	71,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1440	1440	1440	1440	1,070
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	40,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1090	1080	1090	15,600
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	5,400
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.6	0.6	2,890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	655	650	655	42,030
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.039	0.039	3,400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	15,000
Piltel	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.43	750,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	455	462.5	455	460	54,840
Ivantage Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	110,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	68,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	25	25.5	25	25	906,100
Manila Electric Co. B	40	40.5	38.5	38.5	5,615,100
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.7	8,176,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.66	1.66	299,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.85	2.9	2.8	2.9	1,322,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	10,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	17,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	10,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	50,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	10,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	34.5	32	34	2,877,700
RFM Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	5,343,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	4,000
San Miguel Corp. A	49	49.5	48.5	49.5	142,100
San Miguel Corp. B	58	58	57.5	57.5	56,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	90,000
Ayala Corp.	6	6	5.9	5.9	1,114,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.16	2.18	2.16	2.18	216,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.35	0.35	970,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	7,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.85	3	2.85	3	105,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	300,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.59	0.59	3,080,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	230,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	7	7	7	7	5,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	206,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	30,000
First Phil. Hldgs. Corp.	27	27	26.5	26.5	610,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	1,500,000
Ionics Inc.	7.1	7.1	7	7	12,000
Medco Holdings	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	0.8	9,120,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.7	0.65	0.65	80,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	1,100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	550,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.115	0.12	0.115	0.12	1,120,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	250,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	11,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,410,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	350,000
Manila Jockey Club	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	5,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	290,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	30.5	31.5	30.5	31.5	687,800
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	5,060
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	795	775	775	7,910
Jollibee Warrants	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb	10.25	10.25	10	10	2,700
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	6,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.1	7.2	7	7.2	5,281,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	430,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	430,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	3,000,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	20,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.9	2,777,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	80,000
SM Development Corp.	1.04	1.04	0.96	1.04	324,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.3	6.1	6.2	3,770,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.041	0.042	0.041	0.041	13,900,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	620,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	250,000
Omico Corp.	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	400,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	100,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE (₱)
Banks & Fin Svc	851,400	42,541,570.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	138,283,620	552,816,965.00
PRO	16,162,000	70,065,440.00
Mining	35,180,000	938,500.00
OIL	22,100,000	107,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	212,577,020	666,470,375.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	557.53	DOWN 2.72
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,820.28	UP 16.51
PRO	617.59	UP 13.59
Mining	1,322.49	DOWN 23.19
OIL	1.36	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	758.07	UP 9.13
Composite	1,356.80	UP 11.01

NO. OF ADVANCES: 27; NO. OF DECLINES: 29; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 50; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 106; NO. OF TRADES: 1,891

CURRENCIES

May 9, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105094	1.000000	49.7240
Japan	Yen	0.008579	0.007763	0.3860
United Kingdom	Pound	1.609902	1.456800	72.4379
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141704	0.128228	6.3760
Switzerland	Franc	0.686992	0.621659	30.9114
Canada	Dollar	0.703702	0.636780	31.6632
Singapore	Dollar	0.610718	0.552639	27.4794
Australia	Dollar	0.596704	0.539957	26.8488
Bahrain	Dinar	2.931441	2.652661	131.9009
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294692	0.266667	13.2597
Brunei	Dollar	0.609875	0.551876	27.4415
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000108	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.025760	0.023310	1.1591
UAE	Dirham	0.300894	0.272279	13.5388
Korea	Won	0.000866	0.000784	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904900	44.9952
Brazil	Real	0.455709	0.412371	20.5047
Denmark	Kroner	0.134481	0.121692	6.0510
India	Rupee	0.022612	0.020462	1.0175
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.290853	0.263193	13.0870
Mexico	New Peso	0.117389	0.106225	5.2819
New Zealand	Dollar	0.495203	0.448109	22.2818
Norway	Kroner	0.132036	0.119479	5.9410
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018448	0.016694	0.8301
South Africa	Rand	0.107670	0.097431	4.8447
Sweden	Kroner	0.107556	0.097327	4.8395
Syria	Pound	0.025115	0.022727	1.1301
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032041	0.028994	1.4417
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001182	0.001070	0.0532

Unpacified tenants

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

UNIT owners of the Pacific Plaza Towers—the "A" list of society's who's who—are grumbling that the mother title of the country's most exclusive and most desirable condominium has a notice of "lis pendens" (pending lawsuit) attached on the condo's mother title.

The lis pendens annotation has also begun appearing in the respective unit owners' TCTs, a buyer-beware notice should the unit owners decide to turn around and place their units on the market.

According to Javier Lagdameo, senior vice president/marketing for Pacific Plaza Towers, the annotation was placed "without any legal basis" by the Rizal Registry of Deeds upon the request of Engineering Equipment Inc. and its French partner, the main contractor for the Fort Bonifacio building.

EEI is in the midst of an arbitration proceeding with condo developer Metro Pacific/Bases Conversion Development Authority after Metro Pacific/BCDA sued EEI and its French partner for alleged construction lapses and delays.

In its counter-collection suit, EEI managed to prevail over the Registry of Deeds to place a lis pendens on the Pacific Plaza Towers title, an annotation "not sanctioned by any order of any court or tribunal," fumed Metro Pacific lawyer Sim Buyco.

As a result, Pacific Plaza Towers now has to file another court case and sue the Register of Deeds for the latter to lift the legal impediment.

Despite the explanation of Metro Pacific/Pacific Plaza, a "male" homeowner identified with the Yuchengcos is agitating for a class suit against the developer and trying to round up signatures among fellow unit owners.

EEI, incidentally, is a Yuchengco company. And the Pacific Plaza Towers row is beginning to look like the latest chapter in the Yuchengco-Metro Pacific battle that erupted after Metro Pacific took majority control of PLDT from the Yuchengcos and the Cojuangcos.

Itogon-Suyoc stalemate

HOW do you put a price tag on big egos?

We ask this question since the Itogon-Suyoc-Philweb brouhaha, assuming that the fight between Roberto Ongpin and Robert Coyiuto Jr. could be quantified, boils down to a P10.4-million difference.

COCKTALES/ B4

PLDT seen posting net profit of ₱1.3B

By Abigail L. Ho

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is expected to post a net income of P1.3 billion this quarter, fueled mainly by the strong showing of cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc.

PLDT's expected first-quarter earnings are double that of last year's actual net income of P629 million for the same period.

According to DBS Vickers Securities, Smart was expected to contribute P1 billion to PLDT's overall net income for the quarter, 19 to 20 percent higher than its year-ago contribution.

"The main driver for Smart's profitability is the continued strong take up in new subscribers and stable (average revenue per unit)," it said in its May report. "Smart also enjoys a tax holiday that will last until 2004."

Aside from Smart's strong performance, PLDT was also expected to greatly benefit from the cut in the net loss contribution of affiliate Pilipino Telephone Corp.

PLDT/ B4

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KOREA INVITES ALL BUSINESSMEN TO ATTEND THE

"ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS MEETING"
and
" WORLD CUP EXPORT PLAZA"

DATE: JUNE 5 to 18, 2002

** FOR ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS MEETING ON JUNE 6TH
VENUE: KYOUNGI SMALL BUSINESS CENTER IN
SUWON CITY, REP. OF KOREA

**THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS MEETING IS TO MEET WITH THE KOREAN MANUFACTURERS WHO CAN SUPPLY THE PRODUCTS WHICH YOU ARE SOURCING FOR. PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MEETING WILL BE PROVIDED FREE 3-NIGHTS HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND HOTEL TRANSFERS ONLY. THIS IS EXCLUSIVELY FOR LEGITIMATE BUSINESSMEN OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES. FOR OTHER DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT KOREA TRADE CENTER, MANILA, TEL. NOS. 893-1183, 893-3244 AND 812-4079. YOU MAY RESPOND THRU OUR FAX NO. 817-3369 ATTN. MS. ARMI OR CHRISTIANE. DEADLINE IS ON MAY 14,2002, FIRST COME ,FIRST SERVE.

THE WORLD CUP EXPORT PLAZA IS A MINI-EXHIBITION COMPOSED OF 100 SMALL AND MEDIUM COMPANIES FROM KYOUNGI PROVINCE, REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND DISPLAY OF 1000 NEW PRODUCT CATALOGS.

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April 2002

"Only Svenson Made My Hair Lush Again!"

"In my whole life, I never thought that I would be threatened by heavy hair loss. But that's exactly what happened to me about two years ago. Fortunately, Svenson restored the lushness to my limp, thinning hair and has maintained it ever since. There's more body and more volume than ever before. Even now, my hair looks and feels the same as it was 20 years ago when it was at the peak of its fullness!"

Eva Abesamis

Svenson at 21

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Women at Svenson

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Certified by AST Asian Society of Trichology

MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

Recovering the Lushness of Your Hair

Men aren't the only victims of heavy hair loss. Lots of women are prone to it as well. Hair loss is usually an overall thinning---two hairs where five used to be. As a result, diffuse thinning occurs in the frontal and crown areas where the hair can appear wispy if not treated immediately. Since the thinning is so diffuse, a woman may already have significant hair loss by the time she notices a problem.

Ignoring your excessive thinning and falling hair won't make the problem go away. At the first sign of hair loss, have a consultation and thorough examination of your hair and scalp at Svenson. The most effective treatments are available to stop the shedding and restore the lushness of your hair. With such lasting and significant results, you need not worry about heavy hair loss anymore!

How to deal with employees' sexual misdeeds

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

MAY employers lawfully interfere with their employees' sexual exploits? Are employers authorized, under the general principles of management prerogatives, to discipline and even dismiss personnel for sex-related offenses and misbehavior? Supposed the company rules and regulations or the codes of discipline are silent on this kind of misconduct, what are the legal principles involved? Are there limits in the exercise of management prerogatives along these lines?

There are people who believe that their employers have no legal authority to inquire into their sex life. It is their view that, as long as they work hard, remain faithful to the company and deliver results expected of them, they should be left alone to enjoy their life, sex, romance and love. They are wrong. The law and jurisprudence say so.

Sex at work

In Stanford Microsystems vs. NLRC (157 SCRA 412), the Supreme Court affirmed the dismissal of a security supervisor because, on the night of an Independence Day, "he, a married man, had sexual intercourse with guard MA, a married woman, on top of the desk of the security head while MG (another female guard) pretended to be asleep all the time that the lustful act was commenced and consummated." In approving dismissal from the service, the court held: "No employer may rationally be expected to continue in employment a person whose lack of morals, respect and loyalty to his employer, regard for his employers' rules and appreciation of the dignity and responsibility of his office have so plainly and completely been bared."

The court declared: "He and his lady friend, both being married but not to each other, satisfied their carnal passion in a business office and in the known presence of another person. This last act was, to be sure, one repulsive to morality. That there should be concern, sympathy and solicitude for the rights and welfare of the working class in controversies between a laborer and his master, that doubts should be resolved in the former's favor is not an unreasonable or unfair rule. But that a disregard of the employer's own rights and interests can be justified is unjust and unacceptable."

Sexual assault

In the case of CA Navarro III vs. Damasco (GR 101875, July 14, 1995), the Supreme Court noted: "Petitioner went to visit MB, a co-employee at the ladies' dorm inside the compound of private respondent. Upon seeing petitioner, MB hid behind the divider at the reception room. RB and IB, co-boarders of MB, told petitioners that MB was not at the dormitory and advised him to stop courting her because she had no feelings toward him. Afterward, the two left, leaving petitioner alone in the room."

The court pointed out: "When he peeped behind the divider, he saw MB, who stood up without answering his greetings and ran toward her room. He followed and after taking hold of her left hand, pulled her toward him. The force caused her to fall on the floor. He then placed himself on top of her. She resisted and, in futility, struggled to free herself from his grasp. SA, the dormitory housekeeper, responded to MB's shouts for help. SA saw petitioner embracing and kissing MB. She tried to separate them but to no avail."

Sexual harassment is work-related

The Supreme Court set aside the erring party's protestation that the company should not interfere in that incident that was a private affair between supposed lovers. Thus: "We do not agree with contention. It will be noted that not only did the incident happen within the company premises, i.e., the ladies' dorm, which was located inside the plant site, but both of them were employees."

The court stressed: "Management would then be at the mercy of its employees if it cannot enforce discipline within company premises solely because the quarrel is purely a personal matter. The harassment of an employee by a co-employee within the company premises even after office hours is a work-related matter considering that the peace of the company is thereby affected. The code of employee discipline is very clear that immoral conduct within the company premises, regardless of whether or not it is committed during working time, is punishable."

No compassion for scoundrels

By the powerful language of Justice Cruz in PLDT vs. NLRC (GR 80609, Aug. 23, 1988), the Supreme Court held: "Compassion for the poor is an imperative of every humane society, but only when the recipient is not a rascal claiming an undeserved privilege. Social justice cannot be permitted to be a refuge of scoundrels, anymore than can be an impediment to the punishment of the guilty."

Our law is strict in cases of immorality and dishonesty. Thus: "Those who invoke social justice may do so only if their hands are clean and their motives blameless and not simply because they happen to be poor. This great policy of our Constitution is not meant for the protection of those who have proven they are not worthy of it, like the workers who have tainted the cause of labor with the blemishes of their character."

The high court stated: "A security guard found sleeping on the job is doubtless subject to dismissal but may be allowed separation pay since his conduct, while inept, is not depraved. But if he was, in fact, not really sleeping but sleeping with a prostitute during his tour of duty and in the company premises, the situation is changed completely. This is not only inefficiency but immorality."

Therefore, employers have the right to impose appropriate sanctions upon their employees who commit sexual acts within company premises or during working hours. While the company cannot interfere with the personal life of its personnel, it is vested with management prerogatives to lay down and execute management policies as well as discipline employees for acts that constitute serious misconduct. It's clear: Sex and work don't mix. *(For comments, you can reach the writer at the following email address: josephus.jimenez@pcppi.com.ph.)*

Cocktales

From page B3

That amount is roughly what would cost the Ongpin group to offer the same price, P0.01/share, for the remaining 8.68 percent of Itogon-Suyoc shareholders who were left out in the cold in the takeover of the Philweb group of the dormant listed mining company.

Itogon-Suyoc, incidentally, closed at P.041 Wednesday, or more than four times the (by now much discounted) takeover price that Ongpin adamantly refuses to extend to the minority bloc.

Short takes

- A DELEGATION from Saipan is in town in the hope of persuading Philippine Airlines to resume flights to that Northern Marianas destination, probably as early as September. Saipan has about 15,000 Filipino workers/residents.
- DESTILERIA Limtuaco has finally managed to penetrate the tough Japanese market, bagging a long-term supply contract with a leading Japanese liquor maker. It has also been quietly exporting locally branded liquor and spirits to Indonesia and Thailand, way ahead of La Tondeña, which signed this week a supply contract with its Thai importer/dealer during the Bangkok visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Heard through the grapevine

WORK on the shelved Shangri-La De La Rosa condominium project, a joint venture between the Kuoks and the SGV provident fund, will finally resume this year after developer Kuok Property secured about P3-billion funding from an overseas sister company.

The Kuoks have positioned the six-star project as THE condo address in Legaspi Village.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

PLDT seen . . .

From page B3

Since the third quarter of last year, PLDT has set provisions amounting to P300 million to write off its investments in Piltel.

"(PLDT is likely to continue with the practice until the cellular affiliate will post a reversal in net losses," DBSV said.

Before the P100-million monthly provisions, PLDT booked equitized losses from Piltel. In the first quarter of 2001, PLDT's equitized losses from its affiliate reached P790 million, 263 percent more than its P300-million provision for this quarter.

PLDT's good performance for the quarter, as well as other fund-raising measures, would also help it address its more than $1.3 billion in maturing obligations this year up to 2004.

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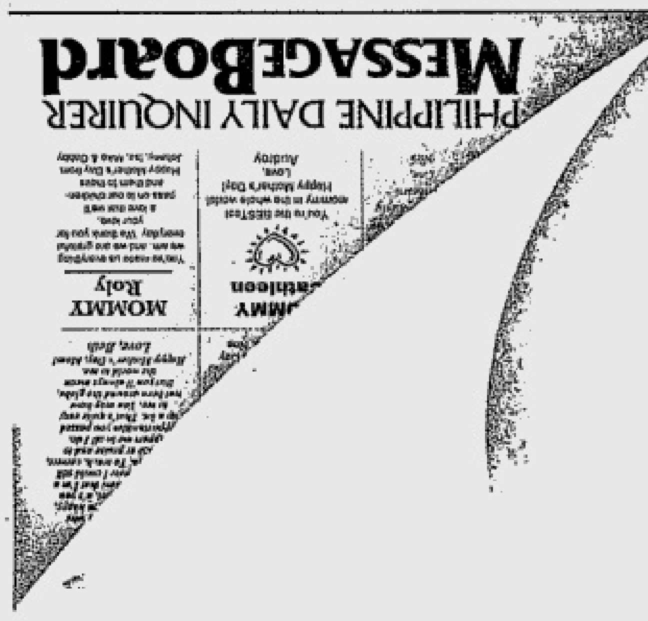

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1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting April 25, 2002 until May 11, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Mother's Day Special Section on May 12, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon to the Mom Makeover raffle.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., your mother's name and affix signature, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts.,1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of May 11, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 45 mothers/winners will receive any one (1) of the following:
   Fifteen (15) David's Salon gift certificates (consisting of shampoo, hair cut, blow-dry and hot oil services).
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   Fifteen (15) Avon gift certificates worth P2000
4. The raffle draw will be held on May 17, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw. If drawn more than once, the winner gets the prize with the higher value.
6. Raffle prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

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Need PRE-ED Teacher
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OFC ASST. Stay in 8530469

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Wanted for Immediate Hiring
SALES EXECUTIVES
COST ESTIMATE ENGINEERS
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S/S KITCHEN WELDER & REF. TECH.
Must be single, with experience, hardworking, honest.
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111-C 6th St. bet. 6th & 7th Avenue,
Caloocan City or call 362-1762

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Wanted all-around Housemaid Need bio-data w/ picture, certificate of employment, Brgy / NBI / Police clearance. Pls call 851-6279

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BSEED, BSE, COL. PROF Tel. # 7246756; 9265049

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COLLEGE DEGREE HOLDER OF FINE ARTS
M/F BELOW 50 YRS OLD EXP. NOT NECESSARY
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DATA ENCODER GRAD. OF COMPUTER SCIENCE PREF. FEMALE APPLY AT 812 ELCANO ST., BINONDO MANILA BRING RESUME W/ PICTURES, NBI, BIRTH CERTIFICATE, PREV. EMPLOYMENT CERT., BETWEEN 8:00-9:00 AM

Expd. 5 Yrs. Furn.-Quality Control (Arch./Ind.Engr. Graduate) Contact:Mr. Esguerra Tel.#861-9315/24

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★OFCSTAFF9134470ZOBEL★

★OFCSTAFF9134470MADEL★

*Ofc Staff 18-45 w/w/o exp Start ASAP 9134470 Violet

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of Nov. 2001 will be auctioned on May 20, 2002, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Bar & Billiards w/ 2BR + TB Calumpang 0917-8143792

CAP EDUC PLAN
Monet 2528373 • 09174037776

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Work fr Home w/ Travel 8376068

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late **JOSE A. RIVERA y PEREZ** and **MAGDALENA A. de RIVERA**, has been extra-judicially settled among their heirs on April 15, 2002 as per Doc. No. 36, Page No. 8, Book No. I, Series of 2002, before Atty. Jose V. Mejia, Notary Public for Makati City.
(PDI-April 26, May 3 & 10, 2002)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE SPOUSES SERGIO C PAUG AND DOLORES S PAUG WAS SETTLED BY SELF ADJUDICATION BY THE SOLE HEIR PAULA S PAUG PER DOC. NO. 563; PAGE NO. 14; BOOK NO. 3; SERIES OF 2002 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. JUANITO M. SAAVEDRA
PDI-April 26, May 3 & 10, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Bank of the Philippine Islands Certificate Nos. 122748, 163239, and 9913966 issued to Erlinda G. Fernandez and Certificate Nos: 770142, 7700490, 7700735, 8800140, 8800580 and 8800911 issued to Ephraim Gochangco, Inc. have been lost.
(PDI-April 26, May 3&10,2002)

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

P.O. Box 789 Manila, Philippines
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Email: adjusupbekova@adb.org or dmunoz@adb.org

PROCUREMENT OF MULTI-POINT VIDEOCONFERENCING GATEWAY/BRIDGE

The Asian Development Bank ("ADB") is inviting bids for the supply and delivery of one set of Multipoint Videoconferencing Gateway and Bridge.

To be qualified for the bidding: (i) the bidder shall be from a member country of ADB, and (ii) the multi-point videoconferencing gateway and bridge being offered shall be produced in a member country or countries of ADB; and (iii) the bidder has or is an authorized distributor in the Philippines of the product being offered who has the resources to provide parts, labor and manpower during the one-year warranty period.

The bid documents may be obtained from the Head, Procurement Section, Office of Administrative Services, Asian Development Bank (Room 1636S) from **7 to 30 May 2002**, during 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, upon payment of a non-refundable nominal fee of US Dollars Fifty (US$50.00) or Pesos Two Thousand (P2,000.00) in cash or manager's/cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank at ADB's Cashier Section located at Room G241W. A foreign supplier may send the payment in a cashier's check payable to Asian Development Bank, in an envelope addressed to:

Head, Procurement Section
Office of Administrative Services
Asian Development Bank
P.O. Box 789, Manila
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
0401 Metro Manila, Philippines

Fax Nos.: (632) 636-2577; (632) 631-6899
Tel. Nos.: (632) 632-4235; (632) 632-4371

The bid documents will be sent to foreign suppliers by air courier.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in amounts prescribed in the bidding documents and must be delivered in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders not later than 2:00 p.m. on **31 May 2002**. Public bid opening will follow immediately thereafter.

ADB will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation of delivery of bids.

ADB reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to award of order, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for ADB's action.

(PDI -- May 9, & 10, 2002)

Federal HARDWARE BUILDER'S CENTER
EMERALD
CAR CARE
opening SALE
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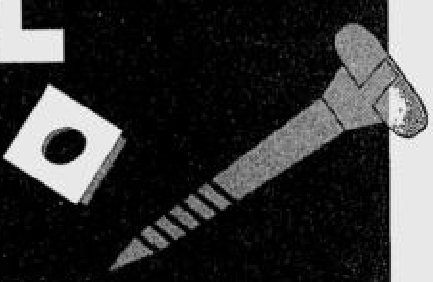
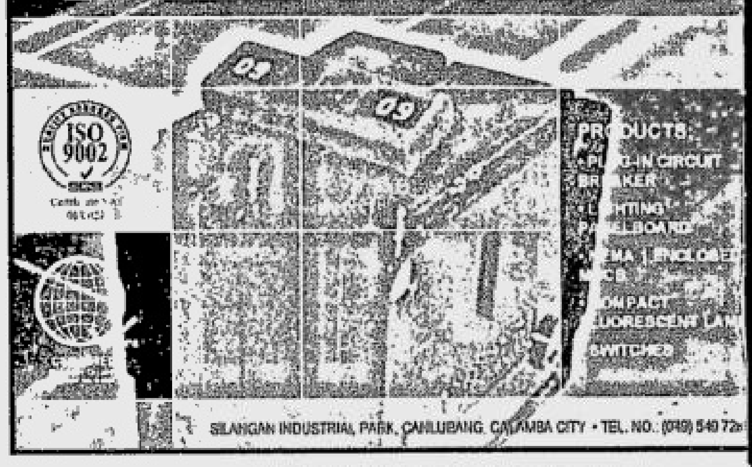


EMERALD
uPVC PIPES & FITTINGS

FUJI-HAYA



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- NEMA 1 ENCLOSED CB
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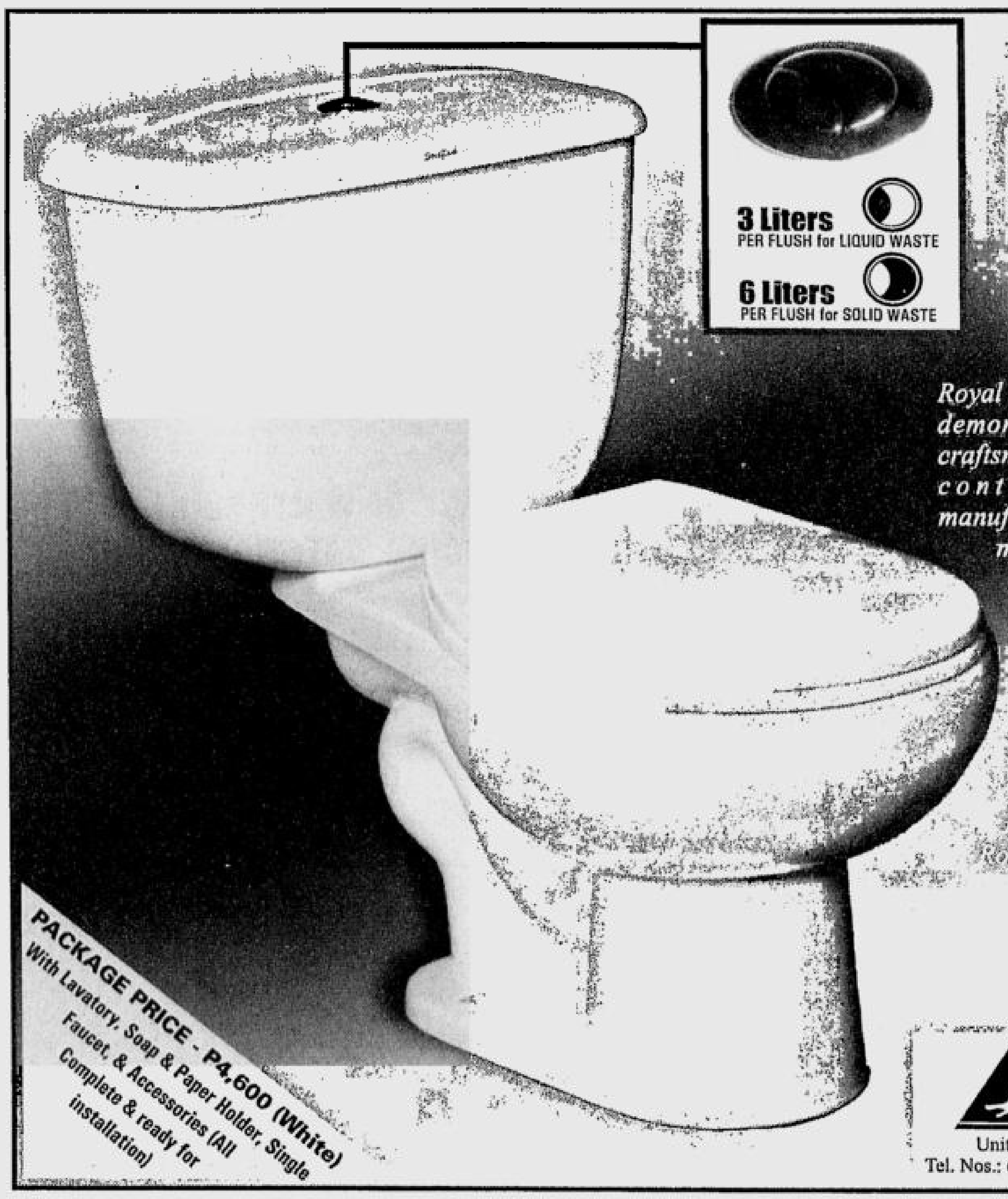

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SF PENGUIN

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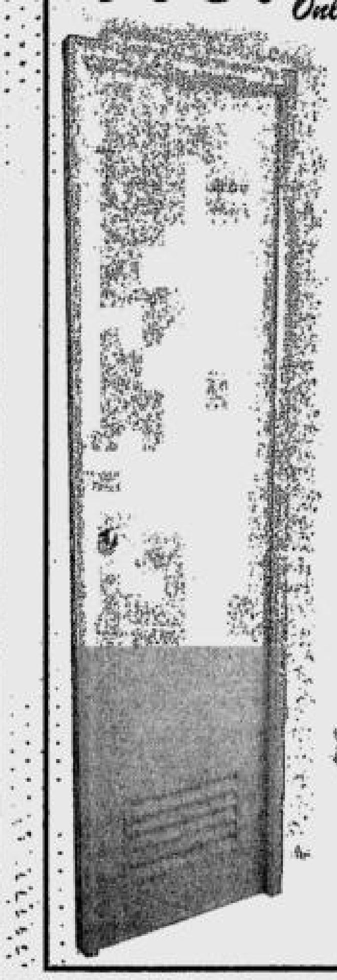

Eurotiles Tile Adhesive P225.00 Only

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20cm x 20cm P7.25 Only
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Bathroom Package P2,400.00 Only

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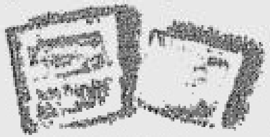

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Dasmariñas, Cavite
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CARMONA
Bo. Maduya,
National Highway,
Carmona, Cavite
(046)430-3227

MEYCAUAYAN
JP Hermoso Bldg.,
McArthur Hi-way,
Bo. Banga
(044)840-0348

BALIUAG
DRT Hi-way,
(044)673-3595
(044)673-0445

GUIGUINTO
UNIT CDE Cundangan
Bldg., Tuktukan
(044)690-0806

ANGELES
Sta. Ester Bldg.
933 Henson St.
(045)887-4011

TARLAC
San Sebastian,
McArthur Hi-way
(045)800-0212

EXTENDED STORE HOURS! 8:30 AM TO 7:30 PM DAILY

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800-7132 • 800-7134

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(Near G. Araneta Ave.) Quezon City
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*FEDERAL HARDWARE-CAINTA
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LIBRARIAN
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FOR HIGH SCHOOL (English, Filipino, AP)

Please apply personally with your Transcript of Records at:

LOURDES SCHOOL OF MANDALUYONG
Shaw Boulevard, City of Mandaluyong
(beside St. Francis Church)

Those above 35 years old need not apply.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Abulug as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the Concrete Paving of Simayung Dana-Ili Farm to Market Road, Abulug, Cagayan.

Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the Office of the Chairman Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per set on **May 10-15, 2002.**

Submission of Application for Eligibility	**May 17, 2002 at 10:00 AM**
Pre-bid Conference	**May 23, 2002 at 10:00 AM**
Submission and Opening of Bids	**June 11, 2002** **Dropping: 10:00 AM** **Opening: 2:00 PM**

The approved budget for this project is Seventeen Million Five Hundred Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Pesos and Eleven Centavos (P17,593,459.11).

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD 1594 and its implanting Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **BABY ALINE V. ALFONSO**
Chairman
Bid and Award Committee

(PDI – May 6, 10 & 13, 2002)

Repubika ng Pilipinas
Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka
PAMBANSANG PANGASIWAAN NG PAGSASAKA AT PANGINGISDA
(National Agricultural and Fishery Council)
Diliman, Lungsod ng Quezon
Tel. No. 928-87-41 to 66 local 510

Tender No. 25th RP-JFPP/2002/01
May 7, 2002

INVITATION TO BID

The National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) hereby invites sealed bids for the sale of around 97,401 metric tons of Ammonium Sulphate Fertilizer for July to February 2003 shipments.

Tender documents can be secured from the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) NAFC, Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City starting on **May 13, 2002.**

The pre-bid conference shall be held on **May 14, 2002** at 10:00 a.m.

Fully completed sealed bids should be submitted not later than 2:00 p.m. on **May 17, 2002.** Bids received after the scheduled time will not be accepted/entertained and will be returned unopened.

For details, please contact Mr. Joseph de los Santos at Tel. Nos. 928-1966 or 929-8234.

(Sgd.) **RICARDO A. VILLO, JR.**
Executive Director

(PDI--May 10 & 11, 2002)

INQUIRER

TRiViA

By **BONG BARRAMEDA**

Peeping Tom

Q. Why is a person who gets pleasure, esp. sexual pleasure, from secretly watching others called a "peeping Tom?"

A. The story of the original peeping Tom is tied to that of Lady Godiva, a legendary 11th-century patroness of Coventry, England. Godiva, on the dare of her husband, rode naked through streets on horseback so that he would abolish a heavy tax imposed on the citizens of Coventry. Before she made her famous ride, Godiva issued a proclamation that all of the townspeople remain indoors and keep their shutters closed during the ride. Everyone complied with her request except for Tom, the tailor. He peeped at her through a window, was struck blind, and ever since that day was known as Peeping Tom of Coventry.

For the Record. Many studies indicate that, in general, men have better daylight vision than women. Conversely, women have better night vision than men.

***What's the Difference?* State/Nation/Country/Republic.** A state is a group of people occupying a defined area of land, speaking the same language, and ruled by a government that was formed because of common economic, religious, or military needs. A nation is often an outgrowth of a state or states, in which historically unified people in the state and surrounding territories from a larger political entity -- the union usually produces a depth of culture not commonly found in states. A country is a nation defined geographically by its borders and physical attributes. A republic is a state or nation in which supreme power rests with its citizens, who are entitled to vote for representatives to carry out their will.

WORD WATCH

Halalan : ultimately, from the Arabic *halal*, "lawful, not forbidden."

PDI – May 10, 2002

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Tel. Nos. *(632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446*
E-mail: *sssemail@info.com.ph* • Web site *http://www.sss.gov.ph*

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO BID

REHABILITATION OF NORTHWING BUILDING'S ELECTRO-MECHANICAL FACILITIES, BULK PURCHASE OF SUPPLIES & MATERIALS, PC SERVER & PAPER SHREDDER

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the following:

1) Proposed Rehabilitation/Upgrading of the North Wing Building's Electrical Facilities including other related works located at the SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

Prospective bidders should have at least three (3) years experience on projects which are similar in nature and complexity and must possess a valid license and classification issued by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB), including registration and classification of contractors for government infrastructure:

PCAB License	PCAB Registration
Category "B" General Building/Engineering with Specialty in Electrical Works	Medium "A" Specialty in Electrical Works

This is a re-publication.

2) Bulk Purchase of Supplies and Materials Requirement for the 2nd Semester of CY 2002
3) One (1) unit PC Server
4) Seven (7) units heavy duty Paper Shredder

List of pre-qualification requirements must be obtained from the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat (BAC), 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers 922-2991 and 920-6401 local 5490/5491. For item No. 1 list of pre-qualification requirements will be issued upon presentation of the original and valid license issued by PCAB. Below are the deadlines for the submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address:

Item No.	Deadline
Item 1	**May 20, 2002**
Item 2	**May 21, 2002**
Item 3	**May 22, 2002**
Item 4	**May 22, 2002**

The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The **SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM** neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **MIGUEL E. ROCA, JR.**
Senior Vice President
and Chairman,
Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - May 10, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant
Scope of Work	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services for the complete rehabilitation/improvement of existing sewage treatment plant to include but not limited to civil mechanical, electrical and architectural works all in accordance with the approved drawings, technical specifications, methodologies/facilities and equipment specifications of BSP. Work includes start-up and commissioning of the rehabilitated sewage plant.
Project Location	BSP - Security Plant Complex in East Avenue, Quezon City
Approved Budget	Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Two (P5,735.32.00)
Source of Funding	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)	
IAC Classification	IAC Category at least Medium (Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Disposal Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience	Have completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) construction / rehabilitation of sewage treatment plant projects one of which costs not less than Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (5,500,000.00). Must have performed testing, commissioning and operation of sewage treatment plant that passes the effluent quality standard of DENR Adm. Order No. 35.
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Req't	Pesos Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Pesos (573,000.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms	
Cost of Forms	Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance	May 10 to 27, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/ Documents	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 loc. 3143) 2nd Floor, Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission	May 31, 2002 10:00 AM
Notice of Prequalification/Prequalification	
Date and Time of Issuance	June 14, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance	PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents	Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance	Three Thousand Pesos per set (P3,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance	June 17, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference	
Date and Time	June 20, 2002 10:00 AM
Venue	BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids	
Deadline/Venue of Submission	July 01, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor losses it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) Marcos J. Slongco, Jr.
Chairman

(PDI--May 10, 18 & 24, 2002)

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF SCRAP/UNSERVICEABLE ITEMS

"AS IS, WHERE IS"

DATE AND TIME OF BIDDING : MAY 23, 2002 AT 2:00 PM

The National Transmission Company, South Luzon Regional Operations and Maintenance invites interested parties to bid on various scrap/unserviceable materials listed below:

Item#	Description	Qty/UM	Location	Min. Bid
1.	One (1) Lot Used/Scrap Items Consists of: Suspension Insulators, ball & socket type 15000-25000 lbs. Capacity, assorted brand more or less 12000 pcs / 57000 kgs., scrap tower parts, galv. Steel-more or less 5000 kgs., 98 pcs. used tires, 36 pcs used auto batteries, 1500 kgs. Asrtd. scraps composed worn-out auto spare parts, line materials, substation hardwares and semi expendable tools and equipment, 1 unit junked Ford Pick-Up, Plate No. SBB-754 - Model-1989.	1 LOT	NAGA S/S NAGA, CAMARINES SUR	P206,500.00
2.	One (1) Lot Used/Scrap Items Consists of: Suspension Insulators, ball & socket type Assorted sizes, brand more or less 3000 pcs. 15000 kgs., Potential Transformer, assorted 8 pcs., Current Transformers, assorted -16 pcs., Lightning Arresters, assorted - 35 pcs., Overhead Ground Wire - 1 lot, G.I. Sheet More or less 200 pieces/1200 kgs.	1 LOT	GUMACA S/S GUMACA, QUEZON	P190,000.00

Bid in the prescribed form shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and shall be received unti 12:00 noon of **May 23, 2002** and be opened at exactly 2:00 p.m. All bids must be submitted at NTC-SLT Bidding Room, San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna with the following:

1. Bidder's Bond in the form of Cash and/or Manager's Check, 5% of the total bid price.
2. Latest Income Tax Return and/or Financial Statement of the Company.

Additional information such as request for inspection and bid form may be obtained from NTC South Luzon Transco with Telephone No. 5208213. Payment of prescribed form and other particular is P50.00 per set which is not refundable.

The Company reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waives formalities found therein and accept offer advantageous to NTC.

(Sgd) **R.D. RAMAS**
Manager, Administration-SLT
And Chairman, RAMSUC

(PDI - May 10, 2002)

National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
AD NO. PD2002-14

Bidding Date : June 7, 2002 - 9:00 AM
Pre-Bid Conference : May 23, 2002 - 1:30 PM
(NPC Fiesta Hall Conference Room)

SECURITY SERVICES FOR BATAAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, MORONG BATAAN
(Approved Budget for the Contract/Package to be Bid - P14,180,210.00)

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the NPC Fiesta Hall, Conference Room, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and Bid documents are available for issuance on **May 13-23, 2002, 8:30 to 11:30 AM** at the Accreditation, Bidding and IT Services, Procurement and Contracting Division, Materials Management Department, Ground Floor, Building 2, upon (1) presentation of original copy of Applicant's registration with the Securities and Exchange Commission and/or Department of Trade and Industry, (2) presentation of original copy of License to Operate issued by the Security Agency and Guards Supervisory Division (SAGSD). (3) submission of Applicant's TIN and payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00).

Submission of eligibility forms/documents and bid proposal is not later than **9:00 AM of June 7, 2002** at the NPC Fiesta Hall, Conference Room, after which the opening of first envelope shall follow. The opening of the Bid Proposal and other documents (second envelope) will be announced during the Pre-bid Conference. For further inquiries, please call no. 924-5280.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

BAC-SECURITY SERVICES FOR BATAAN
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, MORONG BATAAN
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI -- May 10 & 12, 2002)

LB (Land Bank) Realty
Development Corporation

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All contractors, registered with and classified as "MEDIUM" by Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) for Building and Industrial Plant and preferably with experience in the construction of bank buildings or projects of identical scope and technology, are invited to apply for prequalification and to submit their bids for the construction/renovation of LBP MANDAUE (CEBU) and LBP TANDAG (SURIGAO DEL SUR). Preference will be given to local contractors.

Prequalification requirements may be obtained from the Purchasing Unit. Submission of prequalification documents will be on May 13 and 20, 2002 respectively at the Land Bank Realty Development Corporation (LBRDC) H.O. at 3/F BPI Century Tower, Tordesillas corner Dela Costa Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

LBRDC reserves the right to change the cost estimates, the date of issuance of bid documents, pre-bid conference, submission of bids and date of bidding. Due notice of changes shall however be communicated by LBRDC to invited bidders.

LBRDC likewise reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the company.

For further details, please call Eng'r. Jaime S. Mendoza / Jerry Milton Minguillan / Allan G. Redondo at 812-4586/753-1134.

(Sgd.) **BUENO B. CASTILLO**
Chairman
Committee on Bids and Awards

(PDI - May 10, 2002)

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JOSEFINA RAMAS HERNANDEZ

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 3, 2002
at the age of 86.

Her children **Fortunato & Rachel, Betty** (†), **Antonio** (†), **Leonor, Daniel, Jr. & Elena, Jose, Jr. & Solly, Norma & Wayne, Renato & Fely, Jose III & Normie;** grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to say a prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at 233 Tuktukan, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Interment will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2002, 10:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

NESTORIO R. ROSALES

September 8, 1937 - May 8, 2002

His wife **Remedios**; son **Rodel**; and wife **Nancy**; grandchildren **Adam Marcus, Bea Belinda**; and her mother **Ring-Ring**; brother **Dionisio**; and sisters **Renie, Lolly, Gloria, Lina** and **Tessie**; stepmother **Lolita**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the repose of the soul of **Nestor**.

The body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Sarmiento Cemetery, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan on May 15, 2002 at 10:00 AM.

For further details please call or text 0919-5230297.

1986 Gintong Ina Awardee

Maria Agcaoili Albano vda. de Ranada

"Maming"
March 10, 1915 - May 6, 2002
Widow of the late

Dr. Francisco R. Ranada, Sr.

Laoag City, Ilocos Norte

Her bereaved children and grandchildren

- ***Joselito – Gloria Ravina***
  - *Maricon & JoJo, Benjie & April, and Joseph*
- ***Dr. Antonio – Josie Leaño***
  - *Joanne, and Joy*
- ***Dr. Marietta "Baby" – Ling Quijano***
  - *Dr. Merce, Mayose, Marq, and MaAn*
- ***Sylvia** (†) **– Marcial Guerrero***
  - *Dr. Mariliz & Jason*
- ***Dr. Francis, Jr. – Mildred Bustamante***
  - *Dr. Francis III & Dr. Gretchen, Jack, and Dr. Jason*
- ***Marilou** (†) **– Dr. Rhey Remigio** (†)*
  - *Ryan & Ana, and Rachelle*
- ***Dr. Don – Yvonne Burnaman***
  - *Dr. Dax, Dondon, and Darwin*
- ***Rosemarie – Bobot Cervantes***
  - *Maja, Mae, and Mikko*

great-grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Ranada Building, Rizal Street, Lacag City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 18, 2002 at the Family Mausoleum after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. William's Cathedral.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

DOMINADOR "DOMING" S. ALLI, SR.

Born on July 10, 1933 at Taytay, Palawan and
passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 07, 2002.

His loving wife **CARINA**, children **Boy & Liza, Beng & Ad, Nando & France, Elena and Raffy Medalla, Carina Kai, Boyet & Gem, Imma, Thelma, Chris & Genie,** and **Mello**, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, brothers and sisters, parents (†), relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel A-2, La Funeraria Paz, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 12 May 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque.

RENE C. MENINA

Peacefully joined our Lord on May 7, 2002
at the age of 61.

His loving wife **Yola**; his children **Kokoy** and **Nico**; his siblings **Daisy, Romeo** and **Fely**; his nephews and nieces request the kind readers to please pray for his eternal rest.

His body lies in state at the Holy Trinity Chapels, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Funeral Mass will be on Sunday, May 12, 2002 at the Holy Trinity Chapel at 9:00 AM.

Interment will immediately follow.

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January 3, 1915 - May 10, 1991

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We love you...

Loving wife **Doring**, and children **Myrna**, **Dante**, **Eddie**, **Doris** and **Daisy**. We request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

FLORENTINA GARCIA MORAN

Writer, College Teacher, and Government Officer

Joined our Creator on May 8, 2002
at the age of 77.

Her loving husband **Ramon**; children **Ronnie, Tony, Chito, Flor, Wilma, Dan** and **Lizelle**; grandchildren, sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel E, Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City; Tel. Nos. 645-1845/55.

Interment will be at Heavens Gate Memorial Park, Antipolo City on Saturday, May 11, 2002, after the 8:00 AM Holy Mass.

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Be firm with automotive policy, DTI told

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

JAPANESE auto assemblers are asking the Department of Trade and Industry to clear up its fickle policy on the development of the country's auto industry and declare whether it wants carmakers to assemble their vehicles here or ship them here from abroad.

According to a top executive of a leading Japanese carmaker, trade officials have consistently been inconsistent with their plans, which have derailed efforts by auto assemblers to strengthen their domestic manufacturing operations.

The trade department has created distortions in its auto policies that have disconcerted assemblers on the government's main objective—whether to create a viable auto industry with export capability or open up the market to imports, he said.

Based on the tariff reduction commitments by the government under the Asean Free Trade Area, duties on all auto components and fully assembled vehicles should be reduced to no more than 5 percent by next year.

The government currently gives preferred duties of 3 to 7 percent on assembly packs or completely knocked-down units to encourage local assembly, while completely built-up units are levied a 30-percent duty.

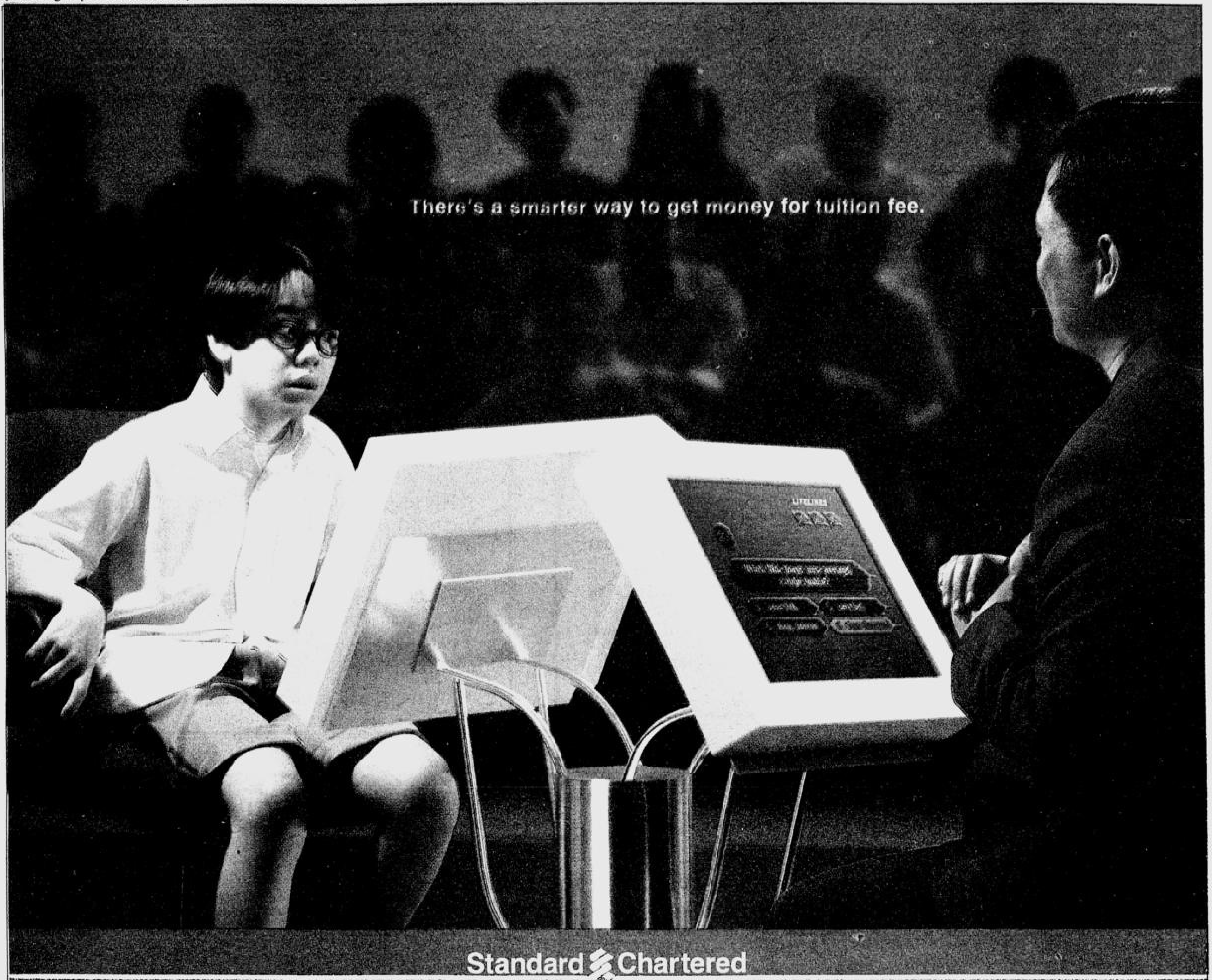
The auto executive said should the DTI stick to this schedule, assemblers would be forced to close down their factories and just bring their assembled units from other plants in the region.

Apart from tariffs, he said, trade officials should address the local auto industry's concerns over vehicle tax reforms, specifically the shift from engine- to value-based taxes, which would make motor vehicles more expensive.

He said the shift would be disastrous to sales of Asian utility vehicles, which had been previously tagged by the trade department as the country's best export bet.

The executive also scored the DTI's failure to curb imports of used vehicles that, he said, had been undermining assembly operations in the country.

He said the trade department enticed them to build huge factories here a few years ago only to change its policies later and tolerate used vehicles and ease entry of imported vehicles here.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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

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MIXED REACTIONS

'Dada' ad: Much ado about nothing?

By Raul C. Dancel
and Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE NEW and short-lived advertisement of McDonald's Philippines went something like this: A mother, father and a young daughter went out to eat at McDonald's. The mother asked the daughter from whom she got her nose and other body parts. She kept on saying "Dada" (Daddy in kidspeak) to the mother's disappointment.

It turned out that the father was giving his daughter French fries literally under the table as a "bribe" to win her over to his side. There the advertisement ends, and the controversy starts.

Not long after the advertisement was aired last April 25, Senators Manuel Villar and Juan Flavier went to town and criticized the McDonald's ad for reportedly sending the wrong message to viewers.

Flavier and Villar said the advertisement might look "cute" at first but in the end, it projected the wrong values of bribery and dishonesty among children and adults.

But did it really? Business Friday made an informal survey and there were mixed views toward the commercial.

Some said the ad was "cute" as it reflected a light and funny situation common among most Filipino families, but said that the fact that it was carried over mass media somehow gave it a wrong twist.

Others, however, said some politicians might just be overreacting to a non-issue.

"In the beginning, it's cute, but when it gets to the punch line, it becomes very literal—an under-the-table deal. There's the suggestion of bribery," Arnel Doria, deputy marketing head of Honda Cars Philippines Inc., told Business Friday.

Typical incident

Doria said the ad depicted a "typical, day-to-day incident."

"Sometimes, you have to woo your children with favors, like telling them you'd take them out so you could get them to do something," he said. "But if you put it on mass media, the moral angle will emerge."

Aneth Ng, a local corporate communications officer of one of the world's biggest banks, said she did not find anything wrong with the ad.

"It's a fact that parents usually try to coax their children to say something nice about them, so I found it (the ad) cute," said Ng, a would-be parent in three weeks. "I did not find anything there that would destroy my children's view of morality."

She believes it's a different case altogether if one tries to bribe his or her child to say a lie. "That's wrong. In the case of the McDonald's ad, it just shows a father and a mother in a friendly game of one-upmanship for their child's affection."

Mon Santiago, external affairs manager of San Miguel Corp., however, said that even as a depiction of a friendly competition between parents, the ad was off the mark.

"I'm a father, and I always teach my children that parents should be fair and equal when it comes to their children. There shouldn't be a case where they love their mommy more than their daddy," Santiago, who has three children, said.

Rod Estrera, Philippine corporate communications manager of Alcatel SA, said he has not seen the McDonald's ad but he tended to agree with the assessment that it reflected tolerance of a culture of bribery.

Bribery?

"True, we bribe our children and it's a day-to-day thing. But exposing it in mass media is a different thing. We should be sensitive to values," Estrera said.

Advertising firm Hemisphere Leo Burnett, which conceptualized and executed the "Dada" ad for McDonalds, for its part, said in a statement that the ad was intended to convey family values. It was supposed to depict family fun and togetherness.

"Some sectors, however, did not perceive it this way," the statement said, thus, the decision by McDonald's Philippines to voluntarily withdraw the ad and replace it with the award-winning "Karen/Gina" commercial that was named the TV Ad of the Year (which Leo Burnett also did).

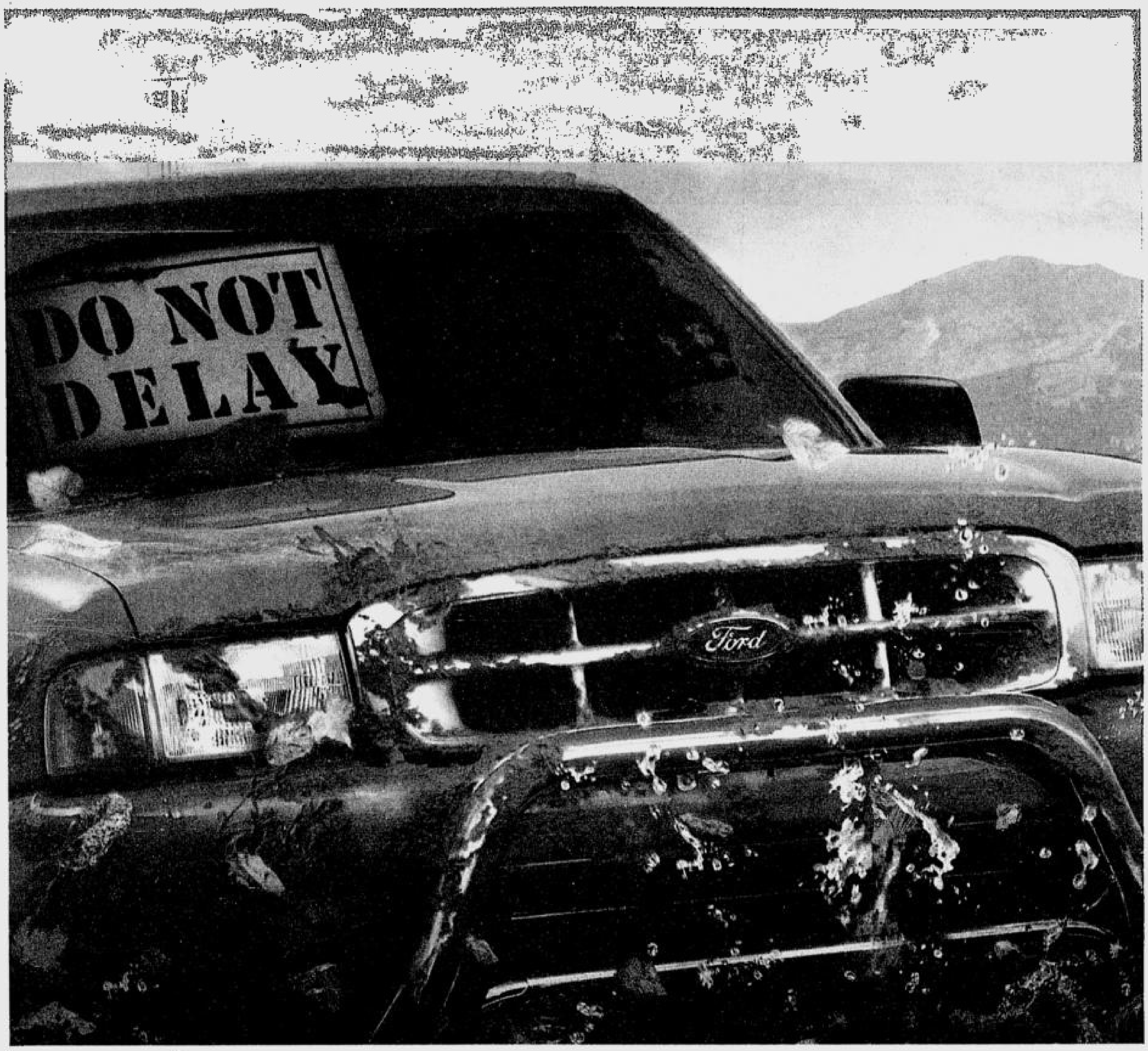
It is worth noting that the decision to air advertisements, however, does not lie with the advertiser and the advertising agency alone. All ads—whether for print, radio or television, have to go through the Advertising Board of the Philippines before they are even aired.

ACRC

The ACRC is composed of three advertising sectors—advertiser, advertising agency and media.

Adboard's mandate states that "all radio and television advertisements must be submitted to the Adboard for clearance prior to the release to media."

Business Friday tried to get in touch with ACRC chair Jose Y. Sy but he declined to comment and answer why ads that were supposed to be "objectionable" were even aired in the first place.



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Ranger XLT 4x2	738,000	150,000		17,000
Ranger Trekker 4x2	805,000	160,000		19,000
Ranger XLT 4x4	980,000	200,000		22,000
Ranger SVT 4x4	1,035,000	220,000		23,000
Explorer Sport Trac 4x4	1,550,000	400,000		34,000
F-150 SuperCrew (monotone)	1,599,000	400,000		35,000
F-150 SuperCrew (duotone)	1,610,000	400,000		36,000

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Ads with a heart

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

ADVERTISERS think hard to come up with new strategies to make sure that the products or services they offer would appeal to the public.

But for the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard), thinking out-of-the box does not only mean creative execution of the advertising material to bring the product closer to the market, but also promotion of values.

Through Araw awards, these ads that promote Filipino values need not go unnoticed.

Araw means "advertising recognition and awards." It is aimed at achieving Adboard's mission to develop industry awareness and commitment to social responsibility, through the promotion of values.

There are two Araw awards that happen in alternate years—the Araw Values Awards and the Araw Creative Awards.

While the Araw Values Awards is an offshoot of both, it now seeks to institutionalize an award program that recognizes values advertising.

Dodie C. Lucas, chair of this year's Araw Values Awards Committee, says that the recognition of values did not actually start in 1995, but in 1986 when ad companies decided that they should do something other than selling companies/products.

"The (advertising) industry says, we are doing good about this, why don't we even foster this activity by establishing an award?" says Lucas.

Thus, ads with values slowly developed from there, says Lucas. He adds that this is part of the industry's thrust to be socially responsible.

"Values advertising are masterpieces by themselves," says Lucas. It is because some of the ads are crafted and conceived better than regular commercials.

The cost of doing these kinds of ads are more expensive, he says, "because they have to improve the state of thinking."

The Araw Values Awards' nine-member organizing committee is a sub-committee of the Values Promotion Committee of the Adboard that spearheads the implementation of this award.

"The Araw values awards is just an expression of what Adboard does on a daily basis," says Lucas.

"Advertising has a very wide reach. It is a very powerful medium because aside from selling or entertaining, it is one way where you can help build the values of the people because everyone gets exposed to mass media," the committee says.

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Old Price P 8,650.00
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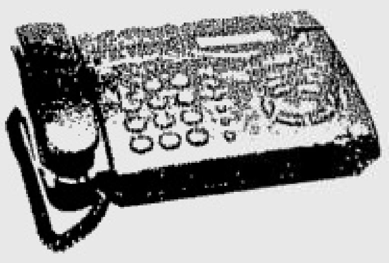

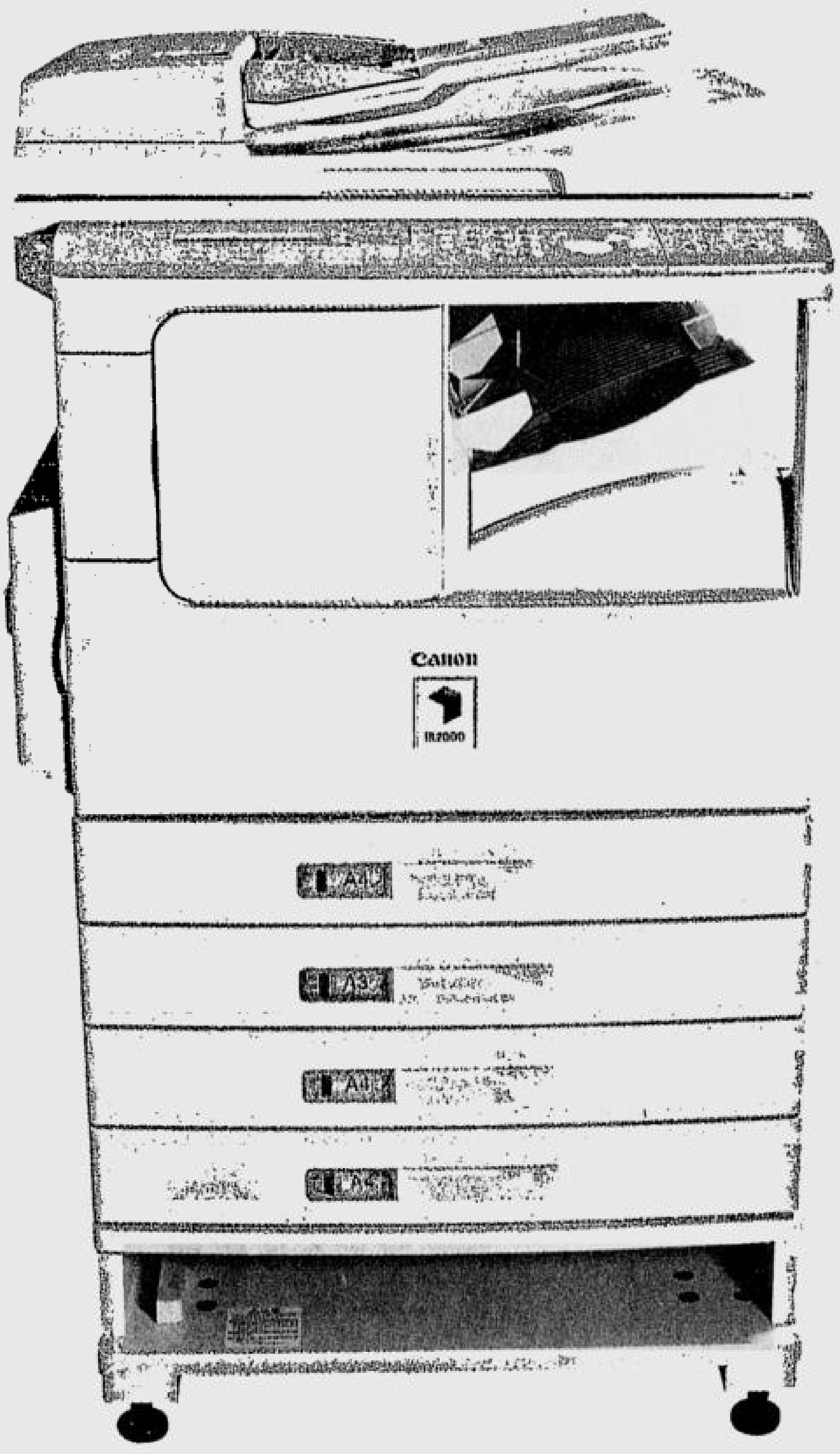

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Promo Period: April 22 - June 30, 2002

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Branch Offices: CMP-BATAAN Dilig Bldg., Manuel Banzon St., Balanga, Bataan Tel No. (047) 237-2151 • CMP-CEBU Door 10, 1P & 20 Free Star Arcade Hernan Cortes St., Subangdaku Mandaue City Tel. No. (032) 345-3680, (032) 345-3821, Fax No. (032) 345-3691 • CMP-DAVAO Door1 Navigators Bldg., Ponce cor. Gempesaw St., Davao City Tel. No. (082) 222-3392 Fax No. (082) 227-4820 • CMP-LA UNION Ground Floor M. Peralta Bldg., Quezon Ave., Sevilla Norte, San Fernando City, La Union Tel. No. (072) 242-0440, (072) 242-4587 • CMP-LEGASPI Door 7 & 8 CEA Bldg., Ground Floor, Lapu-Lapu St., Legaspi City Tel. No. (052) 480-6331, (052) 214-3863

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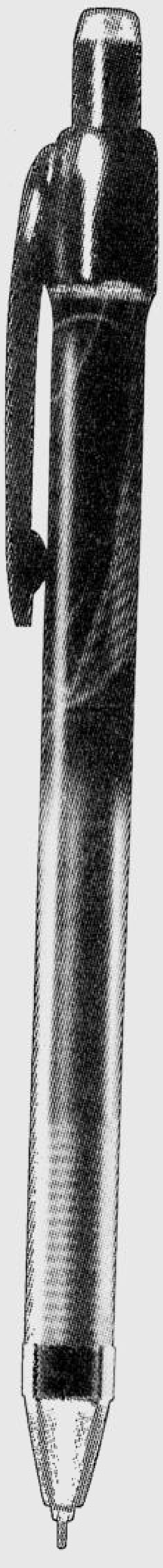

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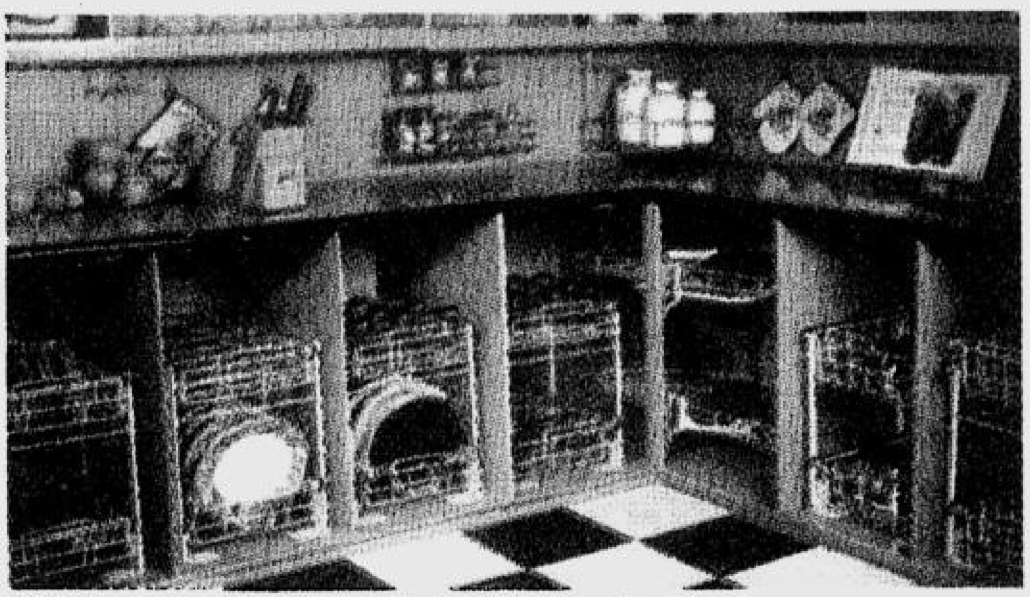
ORGANIZING SOLUTIONS

Wire basket firm goes retail

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao



ASIACO goes beyond selling to interior designers and architects.

ASIACO Enterprises has established a name for itself in the industry for producing world-class wire baskets for mostly kitchen and bedroom needs.

The name may not ring a bell in most consumers' heads but it was because Asiaco has, for a long time, limited itself to dealing directly with interior designers and architects. These interior designers then incorporate Asiaco's products into their kitchen and bedroom designs:

MARKETING STRATEGY

Increased competition from other companies and imports from neighboring countries, however, have forced Asiaco to change its tack.

From dealing with specifiers and bulk buyers, Asiaco has since expanded to retail with the message that it can provide organizing solutions for every household to suit every budget.

Asiaco marketing manager Richard Lumagui tells Business Friday that demand has increased for organizing solutions such as Asiaco's wire baskets because of the increase in condominium units that demand more creative use of limited space.

Homeowners these days also want to empower themselves with choices, no longer relying solely on the suggestions of their architects or interior designers.

Asiaco, thus, has branched out and is now selling its products in home and construction supply outlets in leading malls such as Shoemart. Asiaco has 34 outlets and dealerships in Metro Manila and in the provinces.

"We also have a direct sales network and we really tapped the provincial market. By the middle of the year we are looking into expanding our website to provide another avenue for sales," says Edgardo Paredes, Asiaco assistant general manager.

Lumagui says it took some time before Asiaco directly tapped the consumer market because wire baskets were not yet that popular, unlike now.

Asiaco has also reached out to the retail market through participation in exhibits such as Worldbex and Philconstruct.

Asiaco differentiates itself from the other supplies of wire baskets by emphasizing on its certification from ISO, testifying to the quality of its products.

The ISO certification allowed Asiaco to tap other markets, breaking into Japan initially this year and soon in other Asia-Pacific countries.

Asiaco was put up in 1984, manufacturing and selling powder-coated wire baskets. Baskets like these have long been used in the United States and Europe to maximize limited kitchen space and Asiaco believed that Filipinos would demand the same convenience.

From powder-coated wire baskets and accessories, Asiaco has diversified into stainless steel wire baskets and other products for every organizing need such as closet organizers and wine racks.

Lumagui says wire baskets still account for half of the company's sales although demand has started to pick up for products such as closet organizers and bathroom fixtures.

Paredes says Asiaco was able to expand from only 11 employees almost 20 years ago to today's manpower complement of 75 because of the conservative nature of the company and the quality of the products.

"We are proud to say that we never retrenched even during the difficult years because we never overextended ourselves," Paredes says.

Asiaco, however, has room to be a little bit more aggressive this year due to good prospects for the export side of the business and the addition of new lines.

RP products . . .

From page C4

tem for Japanese fresh produce. Distribution of domestic produce is centered around a number of licensed wholesale markets. Wholesalers put the produce on the auction block in order to guarantee a fair price to the farmer.

The imported produce distribution system is loosely based on the system for domestic produce. Tokyo-based importers sell their produce to the wholesaler. As imports have increasingly dominated the markets, more and more importers and distributors are selling directly to retail customers.

At the retail level, fresh vegetables and fruits are sold by the piece. End users expect consistency in size, color and shape. They also expect pre-packaged produce in small quantities inside PS trays and wrapped in film.

Competition, Ohkata stresses, is tight among third-world country-exporters. For this reason, he advises Philippine exporters to compete on the basis of state-of- the-art agricultural production techniques, superior preservation technologies and cost-effective transportation infrastructure.

Here, the importance of maintaining the cold-chain system cannot be overemphasized, Ohkata cautions.

DBP assistance

Marietto Enecio, DBP vice president for industrial restructuring and research, in a message read by assistant vice president Paul Lazaro, urged the food processors to translate into concrete action the packaging perspectives they picked up from the forum.

Vice president for the SME department Antolina Butalid expressed the hope that the DBP, through its special loan packages for small and medium enterprises, would serve as catalyst to some of these investment plans.

(DBP's Issep II is a JP¥35.35-billion policy-based credit facility from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for the growth and expansion needs of investment enterprises (IEs) in the manufacturing sector as well as selected IEs in the non-manufacturing sector.

For more information on the Issep program, call DBP's Industrial Restructuring and Research (IRR) at 867-3221 or the SME dept. at 815-0942. For information on DBP's participating banks, call the Program Lending Sector at 867-3048.)

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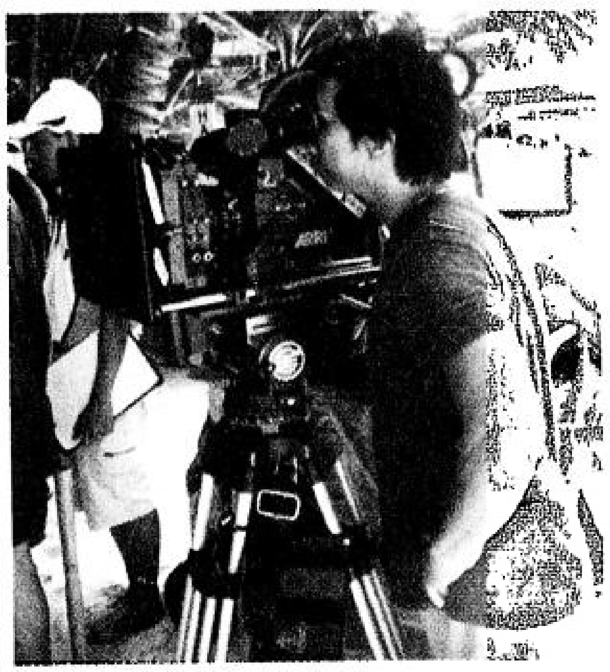
ICONOMOTO

Houses that built your favorite ads

By Roger Pe
Contributor


A SCENE from a TV ad shoot

HOW does a layout become an ad? How does a radio script become a selling piece you won't tire hearing over and over again? How does a storyboard spring to life with entertaining sights, true-to-life sound, colors the way nature made it, and spellbinding special effects that dazzle you no end?

Behind every newspaper ad or 30-second radio or television commercial you hear or see everyday are at least 30 or more people toiling round the clock to finish it.

Aside from agency creative people, they are the directors, cinematographers, lighting directors, production designers, make-up artists, location hunters, cameramen, gaffers, editors, production managers, animators, post production technicians, musical directors, jinglemakers, crew, strippers, photographers, color separators, color graders and a host of other staff doing the work for you.

And behind all these are what we call the production houses.

Production houses are partners of advertising agencies in creating excellent advertising. They play a significant role in enhancing creative ideas, however big or small.

They can turn a mundane script into a saleschart-busting machine. They can take you to cloud nine with an award-winning magnum opus. They can make a seemingly ordinary-looking layout glide beautifully like a swan on the pages of your favorite newspapers and magazines.

More than anything else, they help build your brands and create a good image for your products.

Recognizing the importance of production houses in building a dynamic and progressive ad industry, the 4As (Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines), through its president Jacinto "Tong" Puno, managing partner of TBWA-Santiago, Mangada and Puno, and this year's Agency of the Year competition chair March Ventosa, (managing director, Leo Burnett), formally will launch its fifth quest for the Television, Radio and Print Production Houses of the Year this month.

The 4As honors outstanding television/film, radio and print production houses who have consistently displayed creativity and professionalism in helping breathe life to the advertising agencies' creations.

Required for submission for those vying for Television Production House of the Year are six pieces of their best work submitted in VHS format; three radio spots, three television soundtracks for Radio Production House of the Year; three full color print ad or poster proofs, three full color brochures and three collateral materials for Print Production House of the Year.

Judging will be based on performance and work done between Jan. 1 to December 2001.

Last year's TV Production House of the Year winner was Industria, which broke Unitel's four-year winning streak. Giraffe-X and Hit Productions stand to be elevated to the Hall of Fame if they make it to the Print and Radio Production of the Year honor roll for the fourth time in a row.

RP products need face-lift to attract Japanese buyers

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co
Contributor

AN ARRAY of Japanese food packages was displayed at the seminar.

PACKAGING is the products' "face to the world" and buyers everywhere demand that the "face" they see and buy do not only combine good design and colors but also conform with high standards relating to hygiene, energy and the environment.

How Philippine food processors and exporters might satisfy these high standards in their packaging in order to survive and grow in global markets was the theme of a back-to-back seminar on "Trends in Food Packaging Technology" held in Metro Cebu and Metro Manila last April 24 and 26, respectively.

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), in partnership with the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization (Philfoodex) and in cooperation with the Packaging Research and Development Center of the Philippines (PRDCP) of the Department of the Science and Technology (DOST), organized the seminar to give the country's food processing sector a little help in making over their "face" to the world.

The main speaker, Susumu Ohkata, technical advisor for consumer packaging of the Japan Packaging Institute and consultant to over 31 food processing firms in 18 countries, updated his audience of food entrepreneurs of recent trends in food packaging technology in Japan.

He also discussed ways by which local entrepreneurs can penetrate the food export market in Japan.

Ohkata's Philippine visit, which includes observations of a number of food firms, was made possible under the Technical Assistance component of the DBP's Industrial and Support Services Expansion Program II or ISSEP II.

Trends in packaging

In Japan and in most of the developing world, there is a marked shift to packaging materials that are flexible, light, disposable, easy to use, and environmentally friendly.

For example, aluminum foil as barrier material has given way to inorganic metallized film such as SiO silica and oxidized aluminum; glass bottles, to laminated cartons; rigid plastic bottles, to flexible pouches such as refill pouches.

Ohkata also cites the growing use of polyethylene (PET) bottles for soya, tea, edible oil and other consumables; flexible pouches with spout and outer carton for hot-filled tea, fruit juices, and liquor; china bowl containers for noodles, cut vegetables; meat stews and other "ready-to-eat" foods. Hang-type packages are also used now for banana chips, dried fish and dried fruits.

The demand for these functional or "value-added" containers is a result of today's fast and dynamic lifestyles among urban populations and the entry of more and more women into the working forces, says the Japanese expert.

Ohkata offers other pointers for food packaging in terms of a package's principal functions of protecting its content.

Physically, a good package should safeguard against breakage/deformation, humidity and degradation of flavor and texture. Chemically, it should protect the food from oxidization, erosion, and deterioration by light.

The package should also prevent decay, spoilage and insect contagion. A good package must also be impervious to human "mischief" such as hair and dust and deliberate mishandling as well as lend itself well to stacking and storage in warehouses and in households.

On the other hand, packaging design must be visually appealing. Elements to consider are the logo and letter design, combination of colors, shape of packaging, graphics and texture of the material.

Tapping the Japanese export market

There is room for Philippine fresh and processed foods in the Japanese market, Ohkata reveals on a positive note. He identifies herbal teas, such as banaba and sambong, fish pastes, cooking sauces, ube and cassava chips as some of the local products with high demand potential.

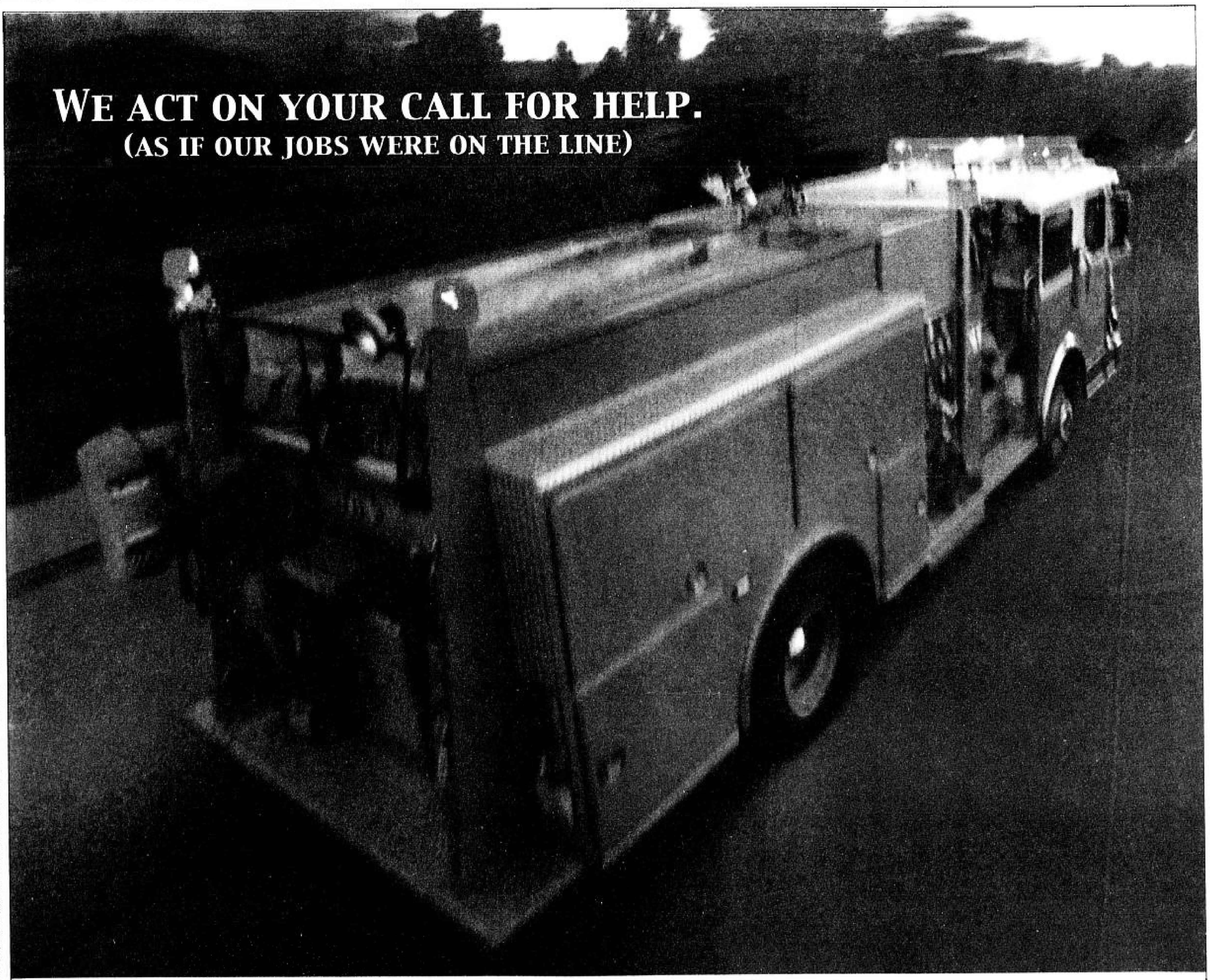
Food expenditure in Japan is high, $537 billion, 73 percent of which are for processed food, and the rest for fresh produce of agriculture and fisheries.

More and more of the processed foods are being imported, Ohkata says. Exporters should, however, take into consideration that the Japanese consumer is highly educated and discriminating, health-conscious, consumes a wide diversity of food but in small quantities, and willing to pay for good packaging as long as product quality is guaranteed.

Processed foods must take into careful account the so-called PFC (protein-fat-carbohydrate) balance, he adds.

On the other hand, Ohkata warns aspiring exporters about the "extremely complicated" distribution sys-

RP/ C3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NEW HOUSING LOAN OFFER

Bank campaigns to get consumer market vote

By Elena R. Torrijos

NO interest for five years.

With a catch like that, it's no wonder the Five@Zero home loan promo of Chinatrust Commercial Bank Corp. got the response it wanted.

On the day its teaser print ad touting the new mortgage product came out two weeks ago, Chinatrust got a call every four minutes. That's apart from inquiries through text messages and email.

A local subsidiary of Taiwan's leading private commercial bank, Chinatrust Phils. has carved a cozy niche catering to Taiwanese firms in the country and to large corporations.

Now, following the injection of new management and stronger backing from its parent, the bank is gearing up to make waves in consumer banking.

"Five@Zero is the first in consumer banking in the Philippines. And this is just the beginning. We've decided at Chinatrust that we will only launch products that are unique and provide real value to the consumer," Chinatrust Phils. president Joey Bermudez said.

Veteran's work

Bermudez, a veteran in consumer banking who took over as president and chief executive of Chinatrust late last year, said the bank has a program to grow its home loans to P8 billion in five years.

The master plan is to get the consumer banking business to account for 40 percent of the bank's risk assets but 60 percent of total revenue.

Chinatrust's maiden home loan product allows borrowers who avail themselves of the promotion to get free interest payment for the last five years of their 15-year loan.

Chinatrust also gives an existing home loan borrower who shifts to Five@Zero a 2 percent rate reduction from their existing home loan rate with another bank and at no transfer cost.

For fresh loan borrowers, Chinatrust offers a welcome rate of 10 percent for the first three months. Chinatrust Phils. first vice president Marithel Luna explains why the bank hit upon the idea of providing no interest for the last five years, allowing a borrower to save, for example, P138,000 in interest for a P1 million loan at a 10 percent interest.

"The reason being there is we value relationships in Chinatrust. We're a six-year-old bank, we're very young also and we'd like to take in clients who are willing to grow with us in the next 15 years. What value does it give them to stay with us? After being patient with us for 10 years then we'll give you a reward, you don't have to pay interest," Luna says.

With a limited branch network, Chinatrust has limited the home loan offering to Metro Manila, Laguna, Rizal and Cavite though calls have been coming through from as far as Bacolod, Cotabato, Butuan and Tuguegarao, Baguio and Nueva Ecija.

"Too bad (that we can't serve them) but we'd like to be sure that we will be able to manage them very well. Service quality is very important," Luna said. "I just told them that we look forward to serving them very soon."

The main target market for the mortgage product is individual borrowers who have existing housing loans with reputable banks, whose outstanding balance is at least P500,000 and who have good payment record for the last three months.

The product is also intended for individual borrowers who intend to purchase a house and lot, townhouse, condominium or renovate or construct a house in his own lot.

The initial marketing strategy was to let teaser print ads run for a week before announcing to the world that Chinatrust Phils. was behind the promotion. But given the strong response on the day the first teaser ad came out, Chinatrust decided to come out earlier than scheduled.

Print media

The Five@Zero promo, advertised mainly through print media, will run for six months and is expected to generate at least P500 million in home loans. That's a small start given the P20 billion to P23 billion in mortgage loans that are in the books of major industry players.

"That's also why we are so excited about the product because the market now is becoming more aware of Chinatrust Phils. as a bank, and not only as a bank, but as a bank that is now in consumer business," Luna says.

The local unit has one of the highest returns on equity in the industry. Its net profit last year grew 22 percent to P244.7 million while its non-performing loan ratio stood at 7 percent against the industry average of 18 percent.

Its parent, Chinatrust Commercial Bank Corp. of Taiwan, has a global presence through foreign branches in Hong Kong, India, Paraguay, Japan and the US. Aside from the Philippines, the Taiwan-based bank also has subsidiaries in Indonesia and Canada.

CHINATRUST's Marithel Luna

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE

ICT Growth and Development in South East Asia

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1:30-2:15pm	A Global View of the ICT Industry by: Peter Wallace
2:15-3pm	The Future of Investment in South East Asia by: Paul Brown Kenyon
3:15-4pm	Growth Areas/Business Opportunities Available in the Philippines
4-4:45pm	Analysis of ICT Developments in the Philippines

SCHEDULE OF FREE SEMINARS

MAY 9 (THURSDAY)

1pm-2pm	New Paradigm in IP Analysis / by: Acterna Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2pm-3pm	An Exceptionally Flexible and Cost-Effective Optical Communications System by: Brand-Rex Biolite
2pm-3pm	Hanap-Buhay.com - OnLine Recruitment / Job Search by: Intetech Resources
3-3:30pm	Primer to Land XML by: Autodesk / GIS Aranet / CIM Tech
3pm-4pm	Modulys by: Socomec Sicon
3pm-4pm	Plasma Display Panel by: LG Collins
3:30-4pm	Mobile Backup by: Computer Associates
4-5pm	Powerpoint Presentation: Northgate Cyberzone by: Northgate Cyberzone
5-6pm	How to Project your Best Image by Micro Data Systems

MAY 10 (FRIDAY)

10:30-11:30am	Bullet-proofing Your Network by: American Power Conversion
11am-12nn	Radiant Asset Monitoring System: Practical GPS for Professional Use by: Asian Navigation & Tracking Systems, Inc.
11:30-12:30pm	Why should I care about E-Learnings? by: Cyberstateu.Com Phils.
1pm-2pm	Dotenable Products by: Dotenable.Com
1-1:30pm	Teleprompters - Prompting for Professionals by: Actel, Inc. / Telescript
1:30-2:00pm	GlobeCaster All-In-One Solutions-Studio-In-a-Box by: Actel, Inc. / Global Streams
2pm-3pm	Global Leader in Electrical Energy Storage Solutions by: Exide Technologies
2pm-3pm	Real Time Patching (Structure Cabling) by: Molex
3pm-4pm	Barco Projection Systems for Different Work Applications by: Audio Visual Driver
3pm-3:30pm	Voltage & Current Protection for Telecommunication Networks & Equipment by: Porta Systems
3pm-4pm	3 COM Wireless & Security by: 3 COM
3:30-4:00pm	e-Business Security Solutions by: Computer Associates
4-4:30pm	Open Packet Telephony by: Actel, Inc. / Cisco Systems
4pm-5pm	Secure Transactions using Smart Cards by: Nextstage / Mondex
4pm-6pm	American Tech. Inc.
5pm-6pm	Worldcom Products and Services by: MCWORLDCOM PHILS

MAY 11 (SATURDAY)

10:30-11:30am	All about Batteries by Outlast Battery
1pm-2pm	Providing You Total Business Control by: Contel Communications Inc.
2pm-3pm	State of Wireless in the Philippines by: Digital Filipino
4pm-5pm	AGM and GEL Technology by: Melcham Industrial, Inc.
5pm-6pm	Electro Voice: The Sound System of Choice by: Micro Data Systems

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People, Events & Products

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Logica sets Guinness record

LOGICA, the leading global solutions company and supplier of mobile messaging and mobile payments solutions, announced recently that it had set a Guinness world record by successfully delivering the world's fastest text message to be sent around the world in the record time of 197.53 seconds.

At 15:40 CET, Gerry McKenna, CEO of Logica Mobile Networks, sent the message "Be Global" to Johannesburg, South Africa from the group's exhibition stand (B20) at the 3GSM World Congress in Cannes, France.

A short time later, Logica in Johannesburg forwarded the message to its counterpart in Sao Paolo, Brazil, from where it traveled to San Francisco, California, Sydney, Australia, and Hong Kong, before arriving back in Cannes 197.53 seconds later. At each stage of the journey the country sending the message on the next leg added its initials, so when the message returned to Cannes it read "Be Global, FR SA BR NA AU CH."

Stated David Hawksett, judge, Science & Technology of the Guinness World Records: "A world record like this would have been impossible a few years ago. Logica's achievement has demonstrated just how far global communications technology has advanced and there is hardly a more appropriate venue for this record to be set than the 3GSM World Congress."

Logica's record-setting attempt illustrates the capabilities of its newly launched Global Interconnect Network. The Global Interconnect Network establishes a worldwide messaging service that extends the delivery of text messages to anywhere in the world—over multiple mobile technologies. It allows operators increased opportunity to generate revenues from existing 2G technologies.

The successful delivery of the fastest truly global text message in record time has huge implications for the world's 1 billion mobile subscribers. Never again will one miss out on the excitement of receiving real-time updates on the football score while on holiday or away on business. Alerts from airlines regarding delays to flights will make long waits in airport lounges a thing of the past, while the ability to pre-order drinks at one's favorite bar will make arrival at destination all the more exciting.

NFHFI CONFAB AT WTC

Headed by chair Gabriel H. Uy, the 11th NFHFI Convention will be held at the World Trade Center May 16 to 18 with the timely theme 'Meeting the Challenges of Trade Liberalization'. While the country's hog farming industry continues to experience growth in spite of worldwide economic difficulties, the prospects of global competition is already at our doorstep. Alongside the convention is an NFHFI Exhibit with over 120 exhibitors from relevant industries. Take advantage of the tremendous business opportunities by being part of this important gathering. Interested parties may get in touch with the convention's project management team Premier Events Plus Group Inc (PEPGroup) at 929-7993/63, 436-4711 to 12, fax 4364898, e-mail info@PEPGroup.com, or the NFHFI headquarters at 927-9621 loc. 108, telefax 924-8884. Shown is the signing of the MOA between NFHFI headed by chair Gabriel H. Uy (seated, fifth from left) and the convention's project management team PEPGroup chair Rafael P. Dizon III (seated, fourth from left) together with other officers and convention committee heads.

CAN'T GO WRONG WITH A THONG!

Recently at Po Na Na Libis, the thong was celebrated in all its micro glory. The 'Call of the Wild Party' distinguished the thong as liberating, empowering and sexy all at the same time. The event was hosted by radio jocks thong-wearing Chinggay (second from left) and Matt Montoya (fourth from left) of RX 93.1. Also shown were (from left) DJ JT Rius, who provided the pumping house music sound, event producer Miguel Solomon, and Bernadette and Rommel Rome. The event was orchestrated by E-deya, an events management group. The Thong Girl of the Night was June Laurente, with her hot pink thong and oozing sex appeal. 'Call of the Wild' was presented by Po Na Na, San Mig Light, Asian Business Gate, and Y.R.Y.S. in cooperation with Tower Records, Music One, Martin Audio and the official party station RX 93.1.

SFC sponsors interactive show

SOUTHVILLE Foreign Colleges in Las Piñas City is inviting talented writers, computer enthusiasts and would-be practitioners of the hotel and restaurant management field to join an interactive learning exhibit on May 11 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Alabang Town Center. The exhibit features short talks, demos and contests on all the courses offered by Southville under the three foreign universities it is affiliated with: advertising and public relations management, international marketing, international business under London City College, IT and graphics and animation under the Insearch University of Technology, Sydney, and computer program and hotel and restaurant management under the IHMES International Hotel School based in the British Isles. For inquiries, call Joyce Cudale at 820-9181, 820-5952 or 820-6774, or visit www.sfc-colleges.com.

Top RP shoemakers sign up with Kiwi

LEADING local shoe retailers recently gave its stamp of approval on Kiwi, the world leader in shoe care, by signing up with the Kiwi Store Partnership Program. The endorsement of Kiwi by the local shoe manufacturers intensifies the shoe care campaign of both parties through a merchandising blitz.

The 12 new Kiwi partner-endorsers are Otto, Le Donne, Cherie, Confetti, Ohrelle, Primadonna, My Shoe Rack, Mujima, Cabrelli, Milani, Styletto, and City Girl. Under the program, these stores will display tent cards, door and in-store signage, distribute shoe box stickers and shoe care leaflets to their customers to encourage them to make shoe care a habit.

"We hope that through this partnership proper shoe care will be part of everybody's grooming, because, as they say, our shoes reveal so much about us. Our campaign also underscores the importance of extending the life of our shoes more so at this time when maintaining a good pair is very important, if not necessary", says Arlene Tablan, Kiwi group product manager.

Locally, Kiwi comes in paste/wax, liquid, crème, and a special cleaner and protector for nubuck and suede shoes. All Kiwi products are specially formulated to give leather shoes a long-lasting and natural shine. Moreover, Kiwi nourishes the leather to make it supple, and helps protect shoes from water and stains by providing protective covering.

Kiwi has been enjoying leadership in the local market for many years and is available at all leading groceries and supermarkets nationwide.

WELCOME
MEETING

PLAN PHILIPPINES AT 40

A National Children's Convention organized by Plan Philippines is scheduled at the Traders Hotel Manila in Roxas Boulevard from May 9 to 11. With the theme 'Plan Philippines at 40, Children are at the heart of everything we do,' the event is held with about 300 children and community volunteers from the different Plan program areas expected to participate in the affair. The convention shall be highlighted by a photo exhibit opened by Sen. Francis Pangilinan. A dinner reception shall culminate the activity on May 11. Plan, a child-focused NGO, came to the Philippines in 1961 through the efforts of Dr. Carlos P. Romulo, then Philippine Ambassador to the United States. Shown are the members of the 40th anniversary convention and Plan committees.

CAP, EL SHADDAI SIGN ACCORD

CAP, EL SHADDAI SIGN ACCORDre-need industry pioneer College Assurance Plan Phils. Inc. and DWXI 1314 of Delta Broadcasting System Inc., the official radio station of the El Shaddai Catholic Charismatic Community, recently signed a memorandum of agreement giving all card-carrying El Shaddai members special discount on the purchase of CAP pre-need plans. Present during the signing were (seated, from left) CAP FEVP Jose S. Montoya, El Shaddai servant leader Bro. Mike Z. Velarde, CAP president and CEO lawyer Enrique A. Sobrepeña, Jr., and CAP SEVP Crescencio C. Bendijo. Witnessing the event were (standing, from left) Mel Robles of Verbo Media, Marissa N. Dames, CAP VP for advertising, and Nilo Choa, president of Telenetwork Advertising.

ARROW SPONSORS AIM HOMECOMING

Arrow, America's most innovative shirtmaker since 1851, is sponsoring the Asian Institute of Management Alumni Homecoming Party on May 10 at the NBC Tent at the Fort. Top business decision makers, top echelon of the country's biggest organizations, and successful entrepreneurs—all distinguished alumni of the premiere graduate school of Asia—are expected to attend the homecoming. Arrow Apparel will be sponsoring the program, which includes a golf tournament, a celebration party and a fashion show. Signing the contract are Benito Lim (left), president of Arrow Apparel, and Oscar Pobre, chair of the steering committee for the 2002 AIM Alumni Homecoming.

'BEST-SELLERS' ROSTER

Gillette Philippines' roster of best salesmen proudly show off Gillette personal grooming products at the new company office at the Insular Life Building in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. The six Gillette sales professionals were chosen among 46 contenders serving different areas across the archipelago. They achieved exemplary sales quotas, making them last year's best sales performers. The 'Man of the Year' award is also given by Gillette Phils. annually to recognize its sales professionals who deliver the best results for the company. Vicente Bringas (second from right) was named 'Distributor Sales Coordinator of the Year.' With him are (from left) Patrick Cuaresma, field salesman for South Luzon, Ferdinand dela Cruz, district sales manager for North Luzon, Lorna Adaos, key accounts manager, and Romano Basilio, field sales specialist for North Luzon.

Mom, the superhero

"MY MOM is my favorite hero. She doesn't climb walls or spin webs, but she spins the best bedtime stories I've ever heard. She's amazing!" says Marj, a seven-year-old kid, of her mom.

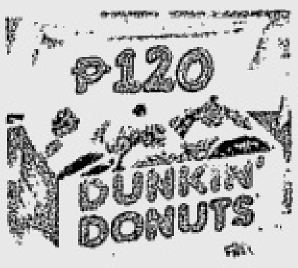
They don't fly nor do they have x-ray vision. They don't have adamantium claws nor muscles made of steel. But that doesn't make mothers less of a superhero. In fact, they often display superhuman strengths comic books and screen heroes would surely envy.

But like most superheroes, today's moms need all the help they can get. They need something they can trust. That's why when it comes to children's cold miseries, most moms rely on Neozep Syrup for Kids. That's because more than just stopping runny noses, clogged noses and sneezing, Neozep Syrup also gets rid of the symptoms that often accompany colds like headache, fever and sore throat. That's total cold relief you can't find anywhere else.

This Mother's Day, Neozep Syrup salutes the real heroes—our mothers.

Product FILES

Dunkin's 'Tag-Init Treat'

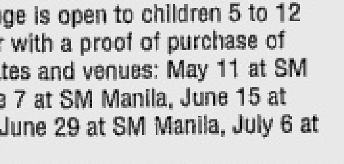


THE PERFECT 'baon' suggestion for those long trips this summer come in a box of Dunkin Donuts. Everytime you buy a dozen from among the delightful donut varieties, you only have to pay P120. Save up to P33 on the dozen delights and munch away to your heart's content. Promo lasts until May 20.

A different racing challenge for kids

THIS COMING May to July 2002, Hot Wheels, the number one brand in die cast cars and track sets will be holding the "Hot Wheels, Triple Play Racing Relay" in the different SM Supermalls around Metro Manila. This racing challenge is very unique as children will not only be racing their toy cars like other races, but they will also be physically involved in the race themselves. The race area incorporates exciting obstacles and challenges where the contestants will have to run, crawl and jump to win the challenge. There will also be three tracks where the contestants will have to race his or her car to get to the finish line.

Exciting prizes of up to P10,000 plus lots of giveaways and freebies will be up for grabs. This racing challenge is open to children 5 to 12 years old. All they have to do is register with a proof of purchase of any Hot Wheels toy on the following dates and venues: May 11 at SM Fairview, May 25 at SM Megamall, June 7 at SM Manila, June 15 at SM Southmall, June 22 at SM Bacoor, June 29 at SM Manila, July 6 at SM North Edsa, and July 13 at SM Megamall.



So, flex those muscles and get ready for the race of your life. For more details, call Richwell Trading Corp. at 740-4673 and look for Christina Leus. This event is brought in part by Ovalteenies, Ovaltine Power, Hanford Boys, Kiddi Pharmaton, Goldilocks and Universal Robina Corp.

Domino's scorching summer treats

EAT, frolic, and cool down with Domino's new exciting offer this summer. Simply avail of Domino's Scorching Summer Time Spree meals and get a Fun Floater for free. The Fun Floater can be used as a bag, floater or pillow that makes it a perfect summer traveling companion.

The promo is available in three delightful meal choices priced at P350 (any medium pizza, two baked spaghetti, two Coke-in-can and one Fun Floater); P450 (any family pizza, one junior potato tots, one 900-ml Nestle Ice Cream Supreme, a 1.5-liter Coke and one Fun Floater), and P550 (any big family pizza, two junior potato tots, one 900-ml Nestle Ice Cream Supreme, a 1.5-liter Coke and one Fun Floater).

The offer is available until May 15.

Nestle Ice Cream Supreme is available in Double Dutch and Cookies n' Cream flavors.

BITS Clips

Star World seminar for working moms

IN TIME for Mother's Day and to refresh and pamper all you hardworking moms, Star World, the 24-hour family general entertainment cable channel, in cooperation with ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom present "Time Out for Mom!"—a whole-day symposium especially themed for working mothers. This will be held at the Columbus Room of Discovery Suites on Saturday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Indulge yourself in Cory Quirino's talk on health and fitness, Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan's guiding principles on balancing family and career, power dressing courtesy of Liz Claiborne, skincare on-the-go with Shiseido, and much more. Interested parties can grab a copy of the May issue of Metro Working Mom and register. Call Abi Villaraza of Star Group Limited at 637-0266, or e-mail stvmnl@startv.com.ph to pre-register. The affair will be hosted by Chiqui Roa-Puno of the Mommy Academy.

Cory Quirino releases 'Forever Young'

TV HOST, civic leader and best-selling author Cory Quirino reaches out to countless men and women of all ages and walks of life with her latest edition of "Forever Young: Cory Quirino's guide to Beauty and Wellness". The book launch will be the highlight of a fitness and health fair dubbed "Forever Young—Body and Soul: The Event" at the Powerplant in Rockwell on May 11 and 12. The launching will be on May 11, 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Powerplant Fountain Area. Taking off from her first bestseller which covers a wide range of health and beauty advice, a more mature Quirino presents a serene outlook on fitness and wellness which she defines as the mind/body connection. The book also includes a list of wellness centers in Metro Manila.

Furniture showcase opens today

THE FINEST in export-quality Philippine-made furniture and furnishings designed by top names in the industry will be on exhibit at the 22nd Philippine Furniture Festival (PFF) starting today, May 10 to May 19 at the SM Megatrade Hall 2, Festival Supermall, Alabang and Robinsons in Pampanga. Themed "Bare Necessities", the event is open and free to the public and will showcase a broad range of designs and materials detailing Filipinos' creativity in coming up with world-class quality pieces from various indigenous and readily available materials such as wood, rattan, abaca, wrought iron, marble, stone and mixed media. As an added feature, the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines—the show organizer—has prepared a raffle for those who have purchased at least P2,000 worth of products from the more than 60 exhibitors which include Legends Furniture, Padua International, Union Square Enterprises, Patina Furniture and Las Palmas Furniture.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Cash conversion of tax credit certificates

TAX-FILES

MOST taxpayers want their tax refund from the Bureau of Internal Revenue to be made in the form of tax credit certificates instead of cash. Many find it more practical because of the government's limited resources.

But what if you have already got your TCC but you do not have any use for it, or you are having difficulty finding a buyer for the unused TCC? Well, taxpayers can actually opt to have their unused TCC be converted into cash refund.

Governing law

The amended National Internal Revenue Code allows the conversion of TCC into cash, provided that the refund is made within five years from the issuance of the TCC and the original copy of the TCC showing a creditable balance is verified by a revenue officer.

If the TCC would be converted more than five years from the date of issuance, the TCC would have to be revalidated first. (Section 204[C] in relation to Section 230, NIRC, as amended.)

To conform with these provisions of the Tax Code, the Bureau of Internal Revenue promulgated Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 5-2000 dated July 19, 2000 governing the manner of issuance of TCCs and the conditions for their use, revalidation and transfer.

To implement the provisions of RR No. 5-2000 on conversion of TCCs into cash, the BIR, in turn, issued Revenue Memorandum Order No. 34-2001 on Dec. 6, 2001.

Guidelines and policies

RMO No. 34-2001 enumerates the guidelines and policies for converting TCCs into cash.

These are as follows:

- The request for cash conversion shall be filed with the office that originally issued the TCC. The office shall process the request, recommend its approval or disapproval, and certify the authenticity, accuracy and validity of the TCC.
- In case of TCCs issued by the One-Stop Shop (OSS) Inter Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center under the Department of Finance, the request shall be filed with the same office.

The recommendation on the request shall be signed by the assistant commissioner of Internal Revenue Assessment Service who has functional jurisdiction over the Tax Revenue Group of the OSS;

- No request for cash conversion of TCCs issued by the OSS shall be processed and approved by the BIR unless the request has been processed and recommended for approval by the OSS;
- Any request for cash conversion of the amount reflected in the TCC or any unutilized portion may be allowed, subject to the provisions of Section 230 of the NIRC, as amended;
- The original copy of the TCC must be surrendered to the issuing office;
- All requests for cash conversion shall be approved by the ACIR-collection service. After approval, the applications shall be referred to ACIR-financial and administrative service for funding purposes. However, the validity and correctness of the TCC and the completeness of the supporting documents surrounding its issuance shall still be the responsibility of the office which approved and issued the TCC.
- Previously transferred or assigned TCCs shall not be convertible into cash refund; and
- TCCs issued which remain unutilized after five years from date of issue, unless revalidated before the end of the fifth year, shall not be allowed to be converted into cash.

The following supporting documents are required for the processing and approval of requests for conversion of TCCs into cash refund:

1. Letter request of taxpayer-claimant for conversion of TCC to cash refund;
2. Original copy of the TCC for conversion;
3. Updated clearance from collection division of regional offices and from the collection enforcement division-collection service (CED) or large taxpayers-collection enforcement division (LT-CED) stating that the taxpayer-claimant has no outstanding tax liabilities;
4. Disbursement voucher (DV) with Box A duly signed by the chief, issuing office of the original TCC. DVs of TCCs issued by One-Stop Shop center (OSS-center) shall be co-signed by the executive director, OSS-center and the ACIR-assessment service;
5. Original case docket supporting the issuance of TCC; and
6. Duly approved memorandum report.

Procedure

RMO No. 34-2001 likewise provides for the procedure to be followed and the different offices or divisions of the BIR that will take part in the processing of the application for cash conversion.

As previously mentioned, the request for conversion of TCC into cash refund shall be filed with the TCC issuing office.

The office will review and evaluate the record of the case and prepare the memorandum report recommending approval or disapproval of the cash conversion. It shall also prepare the required disbursement voucher.

While processing and evaluating the request, the BIR will verify if the taxpayer-claimant has an outstanding tax liability to be deducted against the TCC balance. If there is no tax liability, clearance should be issued.

In case of approval of the request for cash conversion, the original TCC shall be cancelled and the refund check will be issued to the taxpayer-claimant. Otherwise, a written notice of disapproval will be issued to the taxpayer.

De Ocampo leads grand AIM alumni homecoming

FOREIGN business schools have been aggressively pursuing Filipino students to get them to enroll in their schools, giving the Philippines' Asian Institute of Management a run for its money.

AIM president Roberto de Ocampo, who served as Finance Secretary in the Ramos administration, however, has made it his mission to position AIM as the leading management school in this part of the world.

De Ocampo, who has served as president since 1999, has been linking up with some of the world's leading institutions to make AIM more global than it already is.

The World Bank, for instance, is working closely together with De Ocampo to set up a global business learning center for Asia at the AIM.

To be known as the AIM-World Bank Global Business Learning Center, it will be a combined development reseource center, an e-library and a business learning center.

To start construction within the next three months, it will house classrooms with computers, screen monitors, teleconferencing and satellite hook-up facilities, as well as publications of AIM, WB and the Asian Development Bank for access of students.

"A lot of these will be transformed for Internet availability and some publications on sectors—e.g. housing, water supply etc. —will be converted into training programs. AIM will be a strategic institution not only for the Philippines but also the region," De Ocampo says.

"A lot of the governmnet's training programs on urban development, water supply, housing would be beamed out of AIM," he adds.

The proposed center will be one of the hot topics to be discussed when AIM alumni get together for the grand alumni homecoming today at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

The homecoming will also feature an executive lecture series. The topics include "Mid-Life Challenge" to be sponsored by MBM Batches 1970-79, "The Science of Creativity: A means to A Better Life" of Batches 1980-1989 and "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" sponsored by the classes of 1990-1999.

More farmers . . .

From page C8

Bangao, who is also thinking of making the Bangao Farms an alternative tourist spot. He plans to charge minimal fees on students and researchers for a trip to and demonstrations in his organic farm.

The pioneer for this kind of organic farming/tourism venture is the Geofarms in Bayambang, Pangasinan.

Since 1995, Geofarms has been hosting students and tourists alike into its integrated farm. It has also entered the organics export group.

Geofarms' Guevarra family, who is thinking of penetrating the Baguio market, has been issued an organic certification for its lemongrass drink.

Geofarms can produce from 3,000 to 5,000 kilograms of its concentrate made from lemongrass and organic sugar. It plans to export its concentrate by June.

Geofarms also acts as a retailer of organic produce here and abroad. Its products range from organic *ube pulvuron* from Bohol to musk incense from India.

The Organic Farmers and Advocates Multipurpose Cooperative here has also been helping these farmers market their products here and in Manila.

Geraldine Fiagoy, the cooperative's secretary, says the farmers are also marketing organic fertilizers and pesticides to their members.

Fiagoy says their market is still local but they plan to get their export certification in five years.

The United States Food and Drug Agency says the Philippine organics industry in 2001 was worth $5.2 million, which was relatively small compared to the world's organic food and beverage market at $13 billion. The organics industry, however, is growing at 10 to 20 percent annually.

The Benguet State University here is pushing its aggressive drive toward organic farming.

Kay sarap ng buhay
kung kasama si Mama.
Happy mother's Day!
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EXPORT MARKETS EYED

More farmers going back to organic roots

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—While talking to Patricio Ananayo, Cordillera agribusiness chief of the Department of Agriculture, his mobile phone rang. Ananayo surprisingly answered in fluent Japanese for about 15 minutes.

As it turned out, a Tokyo businessman who married a Benguet woman wanted to buy three tons of *sayote* from the region. The Japanese, Ananayo said, fell in love with the ubiquitous vegetable and wanted to try it in his chain of grocery produce in Tokyo.

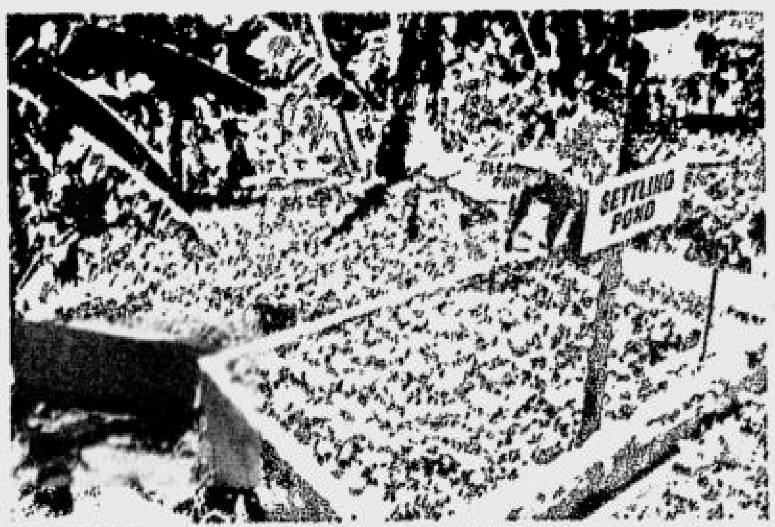
But Ananayo is not as pleased as he should.

"The strict standards for organic produce make the Japanese market very hard to penetrate," he says.

For one, the Japan Organic Monitoring Agency (Joma) specifies that no product should be genetically modified. Organic farm products are processed products whose ingredients are certified organic and processed organically without pesticides and chemical fertilizers.

Products would have to be monitored for three years before these are given a Joma certificate.

But the Japanese market is very hard to ignore, Ananayo admits, because about 3 to 5 million Japanese now eat organic produce.



CATHOLIC nuns in Hogon, Benguet, cultivate organic gardening.

Several Japanese trade groups have approached Cordillera farmers hoping to buy organic vegetables but producing an organic market in Benguet is as thorny as the *sayote*.

Ananayo says there should be no chemical traces in the vegetables. Even farming near busy roads would make one's produce ineligible for organic certification, he explains.

Many farms in Benguet, long exposed to chemical fertilizers and pesticides, cannot produce organic vegetables. But vegetable farmers here are not about to lose heart.

Leonardo Bangao, a 46-year-old farmer in Atok town, switched to organic farming in 1990 after noting that his income was going to chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

"I also noticed that I was always getting sick," he says.

Bangao began experimenting on his own brand of organic farming. In 1993, he left his one-hectare farm to his mother Leonarda and studied under Nicolas Perlas of the Ikapati Farm and Co. in Quezon City.

Perlas, who started farming in 1988, pioneered the large-scale production of organic vegetables in the country.

Ikapati farms also developed the integrated approach of ecological pest management, soil fertility management, alternative plant breeding, multiple cropping, soil and water conservation and biodynamic preparations in farming.

BENGUET is leading the way toward widespread organic farming.

PHOTOS BY TOOTS SOBERANO

Ikapati has trained around 1,500 farmers here and in Davao del Sur.

Bangao returned to his farm in 1997 and transformed it into a model of commercial sustainability and community ecology.

His "Bangao Farms" produces lemon grass, oregano, gippas, mint, guava, *talogtog*, arnu, ginseng, rosemary, dandelion and *sambong* in its herbal farm.

It also produces cabbage, carrot, sweet peas, onion, Baguio beans, potatoes, sweet potatoes, Chinese cabbage, *sili*, taro, corn, celery, broccoli and strawberries.

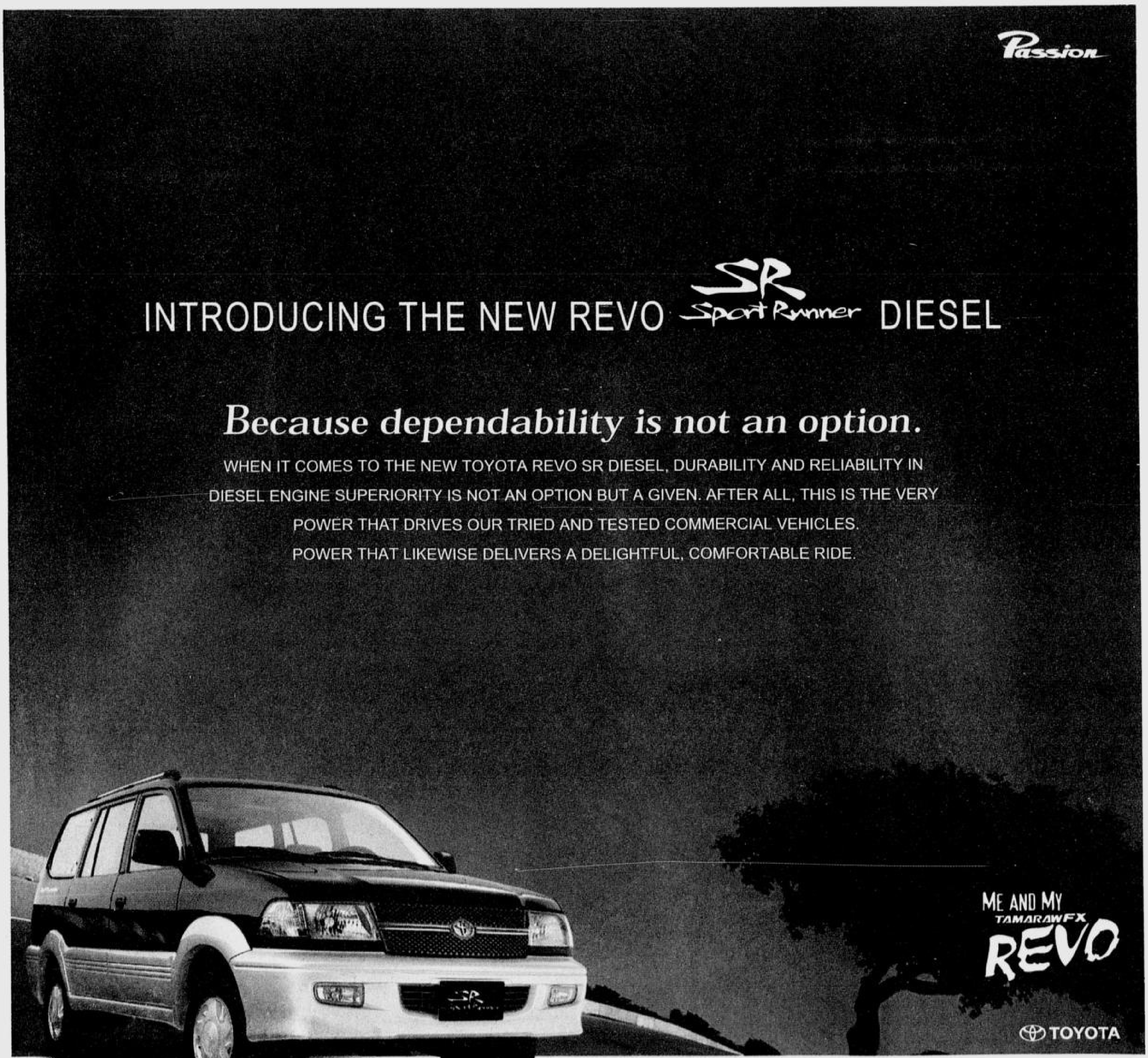
Bangao has a steady market in Baguio City alone. And unlike his fellow farmers, Bangao sets a stable price for his produce. His herbs sell for P10 per sachet, except for the Korean ginseng that sells for P500 a plant. The prices of his vegetables vary.

"What's nice is that at least I can eat my vegetables unlike many Cordillera farmers who cannot because of the pesticides," he says.

There are about 3,500 Benguet farmers like Bangao who are knowledgeable in organic farming, but many return to conventional farming for lack of support from the government.

They have to be as creative in farming as well as in marketing like

MORE/ C7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STEFAN Wilczynski of Basement Salon with Corinne and Chirstie sporting their summer cuts.

Where hair is hardly an academic matter

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy
PICTORIAL DIRECTION BY ANTONIO SALAC SANTOS

IN THE PHILIPPINES, the growth in shampoo sales is always constant because shampoo is as essential as soap and toothpaste. How does a market leader such as Unilever make its brand touch consumer's lives aside from cleaning their scalps?

Lux Academy isn't a DECS school for you to enroll in. It's a marketing strategy to make a shampoo brand more tangible to consumers, says events manager Albert Almendralejo. Touted as a source of information on the latest trends in makeup, fashion and hair, it aims to connect the consumers with experts, thereby adding more credibility to the brand.

Lux Academy's objective is to help women achieve their beauty goal so they can stand out in the crowd. "Stand out" is Lux's catchword.

This concept stems from Lux Shampoo's positioning and brand qualities. Colette Reyes, assistant brand manager, makes her pitch. "It's the modern beauty shampoo catering to the young, outgoing Filipina. She needs a shampoo to suit her lifestyle. The benefits make her hair stand out."

Patent ingredients

Lux lays claim to its patented ingredients such as the ceramides that protect the hair cuticles, the Therma Care (the high-tech version of the hot oil treatment) and the classic henna pearls for raven hair.

Why this fixation on hair?

The hair is the first thing we notice about a person. It is linked to attractiveness and sexuality. While we keep our primal sexual elements under wraps, the hair becomes the center of attention. People can choose the image they want to exude through the hair, which can be cut, colored, twisted and swept up or shaved off. It is great material for experimentation. No other part of the human body can enjoy such versatility. There are also emotional associations with hair such as men lamenting over baldness and women chopping of their locks to mark a milestone in their lives.

For this pictorial, Stefan Wilczynski of Basement Salon was given the challenge of creating hairstyles for extremely busy women who shuttle between career and family and don't have time to visit the salon.

Working woman Christie Garcia was growing out her hair coloring. Thus, the ends were lighter than the roots. Stefan toned down the loud colors in the ends and used lowlights and highlights in five shades. He gave her a summer cut—graduated, layered bob. He trimmed the bulk from underneath the top of the hair.

"For a low-maintenance hairstyle, you need to shape it. Filipinas have lots of hair. When it grows, it gets bulky," says Stefan.

Common mistake

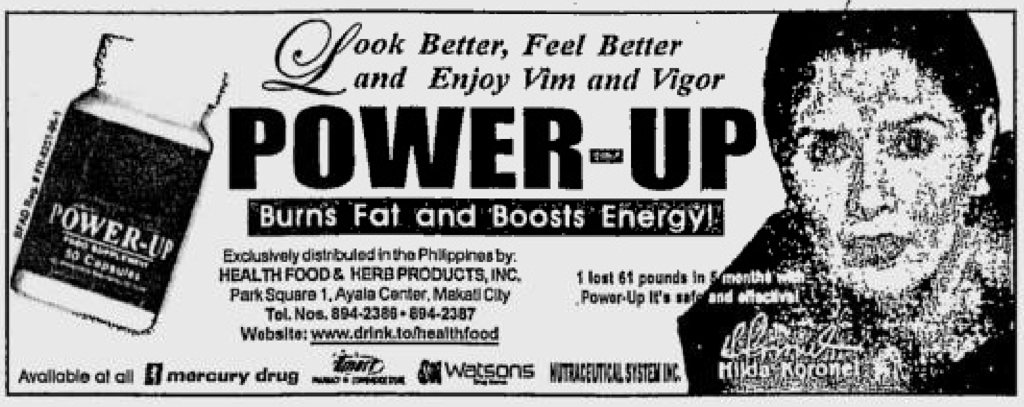
Many hairdressers tend to use the razor, which is a dated hairdressing technique. Razor cuts tend to destroy hair, create unwanted flyaway ends and in the long run are harder to maintain. Stefan points out that the most common mistake is to choose a fancy hairstyle that is not easy for women to control. For instance, the wispy hairstyles featured in magazines need a razor cut. The problem is that they need blow-drying which no woman can do by herself. If she doesn't have time to fix her hair, she ends up tying it back in a ponytail—and in some cases, wearing a hat or scarf.

Stefan designed six shades of lowlights and highlights on Cal Carrie's model Corinne Pagkalinawan. Darker shades such as blue, black and violet emphasized the volume of her hair; the lighter shades such as blonde and mahogany lifted the front of her hairstyle. There was no clear demarcation of color so that the result was natural.

For Corinne, he maintained her shoulder-length hair, but made out of them simple layers.

In the long run, whether the hair is long or bobbed, color-treated or not, it responds to gentle care with shine and spirit.

WHERE/ p.D6



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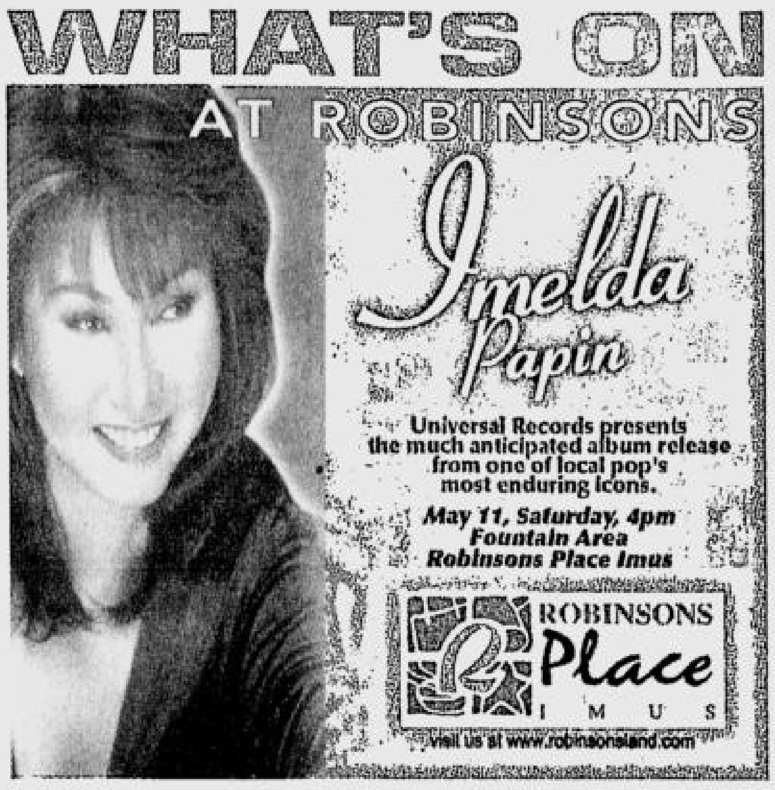

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LEE USA UNLEASHES THE FURY AT FASHION WEEK 2002

When LEE Denim USA unraveled its summer collection last April at the 2002 Philippine Fashion Week, the crowd got a devilish introduction as two of the models dressed in horns, tails and pitchforks went down the runway and cavorted on stage to kick off the anything-but-nice-collection of LEE. Human emotion and desire were embodied in full force with LEE's five brave new lines that shouted to the world of LEE's ever-present credo "Fit in, Stand Out."

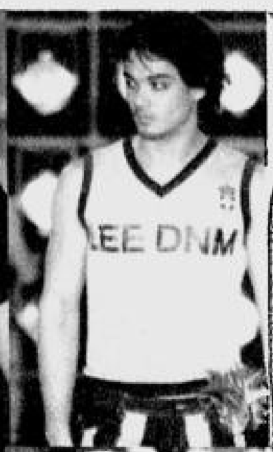
The fashion house threw in a dizzying amalgam of themes **Scandal, Road Trip, Old Movies, Denim Queens and Graphic Empire, and Vertical Limit,** which showcased naughty tag lines on shirts and jeans, low-rise denims that makes you want to wear your best panties and flesh baring tops that shows off more than the usual. It was a collection that left the audience in a euphoric awe.

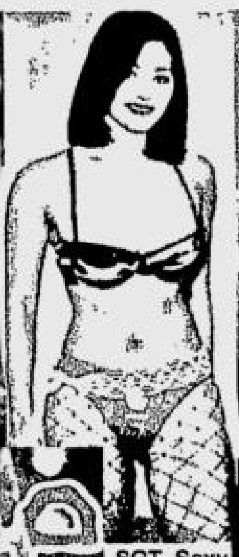
The most recognizable faces in fashion such as MTV VJs **Sarah Meier** and **Anna Shier**, Studio 23 VJ **Bianca Araneta**, Supermodel 2001 **Marjay Ramirez,** fast rising ramp model **Raya Mananquil,** top product endorser **Paolo Cabalfin**, Cebu's brother tandem **Joe France & Joe Vince** strutted the runway with their devil may care attitude and showed what it takes to fit in and stand out.

Temptress Bianca Araneta

Denim goddess Raya Mananquil

Devilish Paolo Cabalfin



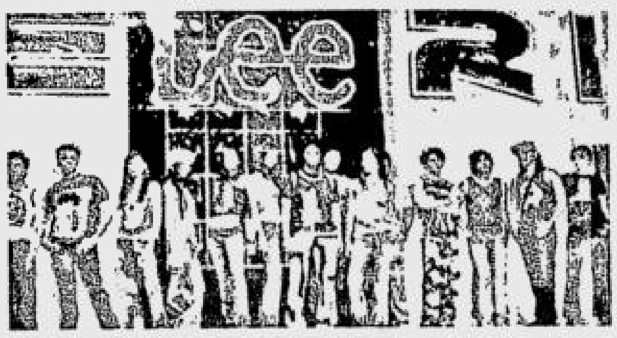

SGT. Sexy

Whatever turns you on...

FLIRTATION , Lee style

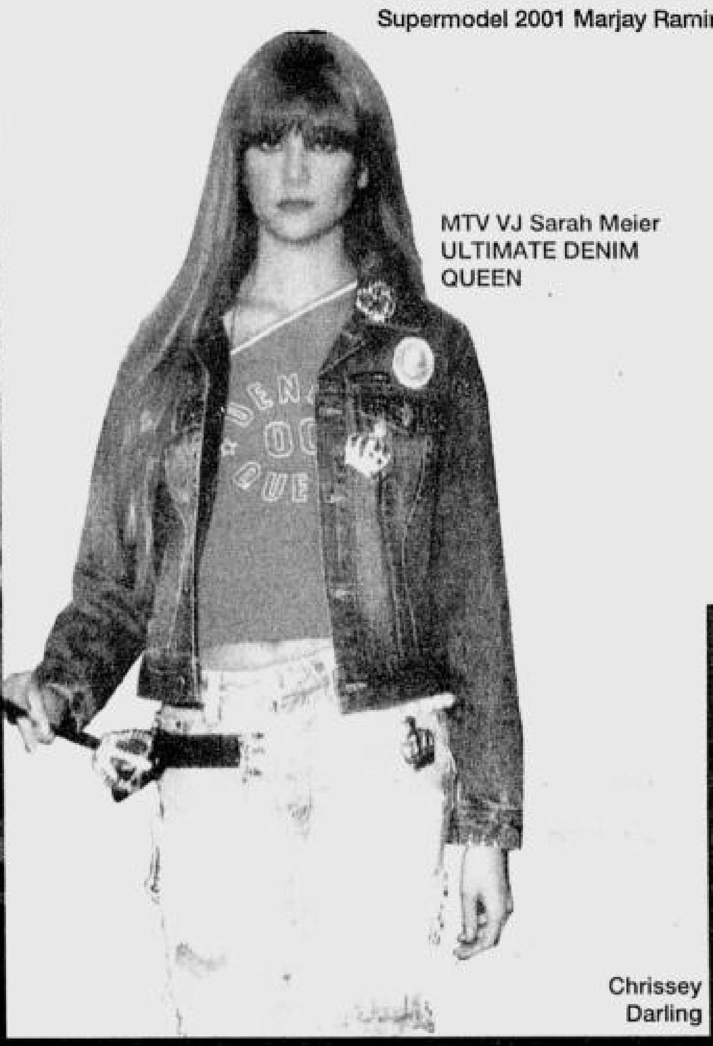
Supermodel 2001 Marjay Ramirez

Denim Die-hard

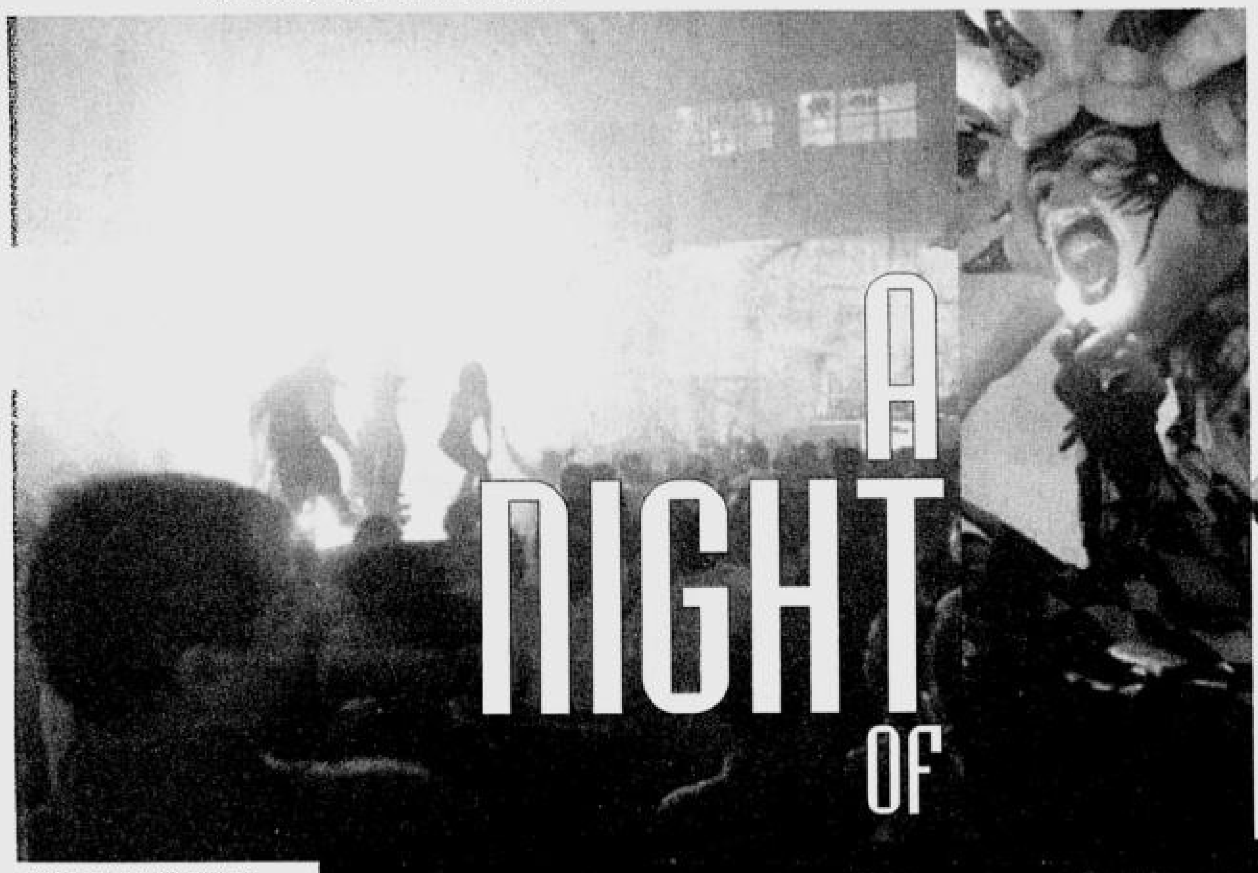


Sex, Money and Power collection

Anna Shier opens the show in lickin' hot Lee fashion


MTV VJ Sarah Meier ULTIMATE DENIM QUEEN

Chrissey Darling


GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER. Venue of the most stylish dance event of the year

A NIGHT OF DE Lee RIUM™

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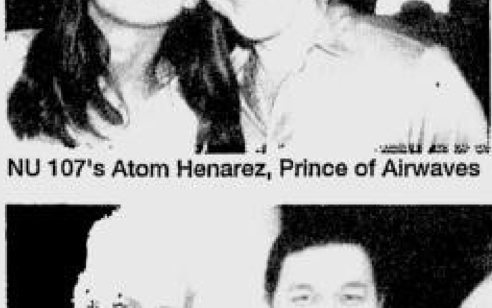
LEE's Creative Director Epoy Arcino, Fashion Week's overall director Joey Espino and Robbie Carmona

The real denim king Wilfred Sly(President of Lee Jeans) with Cebu Pacific's Lance Gokongwei and William Dy of Dragon Internationale

Rochelle Barrameda, Joanne Quintas-Primero, Sam Lopez and Faith Lavarro

MANILA GOES DE-LEE-RIUM

Mighty gritty rock music, funky erotic house music, fearless clothes that is anything but coy, dancing laser lights, 7 feet-tall costumed personalities, and the city's party-philes gather for one night of fun, freaking and fervor. Lee Denim USA definitely brought the house down with its two-part fashion show that fused fashion and music that definitely spells attitude. The 6 p.m. show was a preview of Lee's collection with a concert of local rock phenomenon Greyhoundz. Celebrities such as action stars Zoren and Kier Legazpi, comedian Candy Pangilinan, Sis host Janice De Belen, TV's queens of mean Mylene Dizon and Carmi Martin, Passage's Ira Cruz and PLDT's *Suportahan Taka* Kid Christian Vasquez were there to check out the newest collection. The Glorietta Activity center was hyped with laser lights filling the dance floor and moving graphics as wallpapers that change the mood of the crowd. The models finale on the ramp signified the start of the party by the entrance of the Divaz of Drag. Spotted in the fray were Robbie Carmona, Mimi and Juliet Tan of DAACS, Celine Lopez, Joanne Quintas Primero, Myx VJ's Paul Hammond, Clara Balaguer & Kaz Castillo, Rissa Mananquil-Samson and Atom Henares.


NU 107's Atom Henarez, Prince of Airwaves

Ben Chan and company

Benz in de-lee-rius twist

LEE BRINGS IN THE QUEENS

The Manila party crowd got a taste of royalty-Diva. Royalty that is as UK's Divaz of Drags were brought in by maverick fashion house LEE Denim USA to cap-off the Fashion Week in its official dance party last April . Three 7-footer uber glamorous divaz, namely Chrissey Darling, Maxi Malone and Twiggy danced the night away with the crowd to the swanky mix of vocal, erotic and chunky music of the Divaz frontliner DJ Dizire Dubfire. The divaz are the dance floor favorites of UK, Turkey, Greece, Australia, Sweden and now, Manila.

Twiggy

Dizire Dubfire

U.K' S Premiere DJs Divas of Drag

X-tremely x-citing Friday for teens

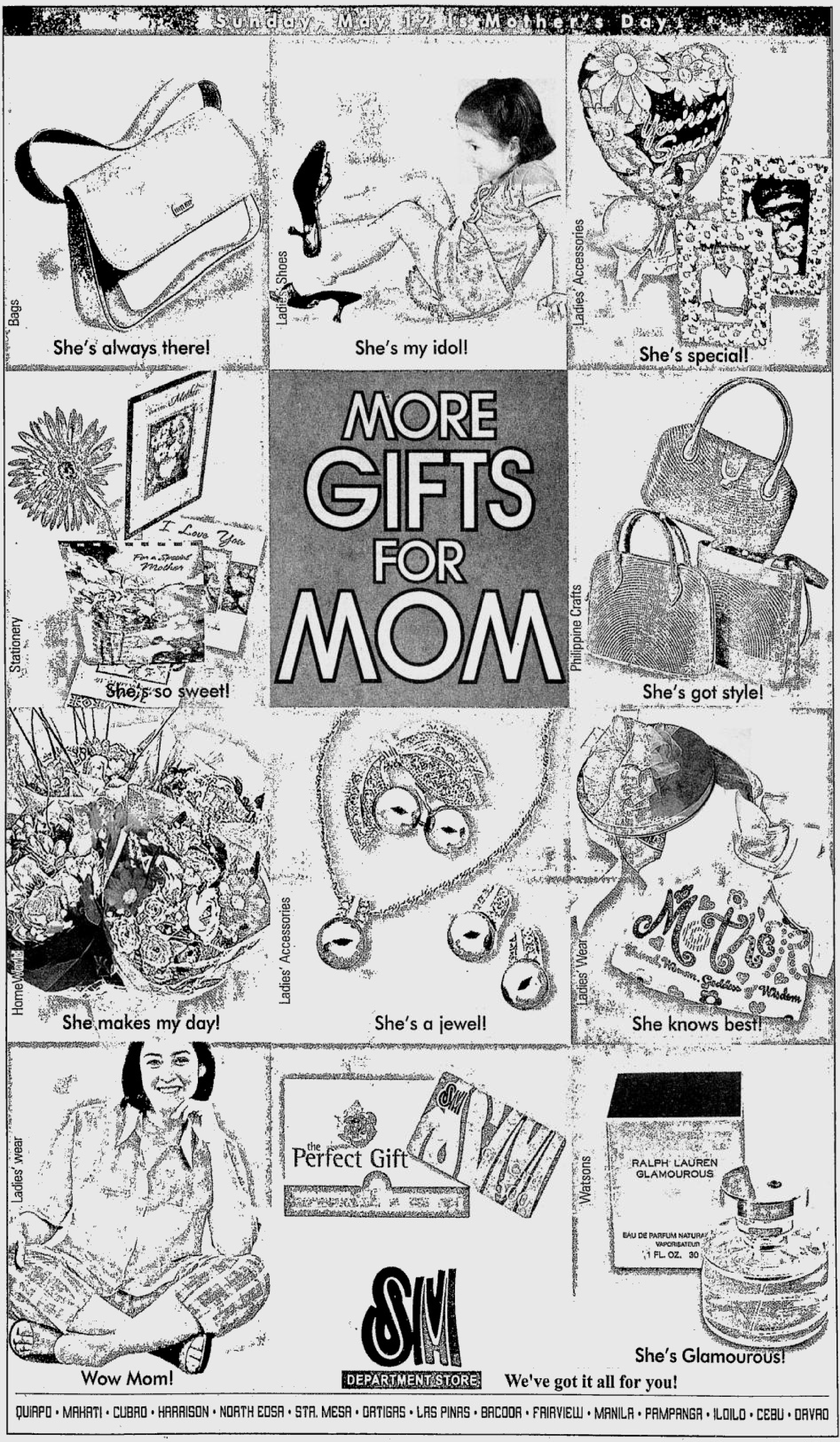
IT will be an "x-citing" weekend as stars and skateboarders visit The Edge, a cool new place for teens to get hip fashions at great prices.

Located at the Mezzanine floor of SM Makati, The Edge merges fashion, trends, music and lifestyle. It has the Surplus Shop, the Record Bar and some of the coolest clothing brands. Teens can hang out, buy the latest clothes, CDs and videos.

On Friday, Lee US and top skateboarders will do flipside showdown exhibitions. Performers include Edmond Chua, who placed first in the Asian X Tour Manila Leg 2001 and 5th in the Asian X Games; and Pedro Santos, who placed second in the Advanced Skateboard Division of the Philips X Rage 2001.

The skateboarders, in Lee Pipes clothes, will do layback spins and precision jumps. One lucky customer will have a chance to win a skateboard during the event.

Lee Pipes models will be distributing flyers and stickers on roller blades.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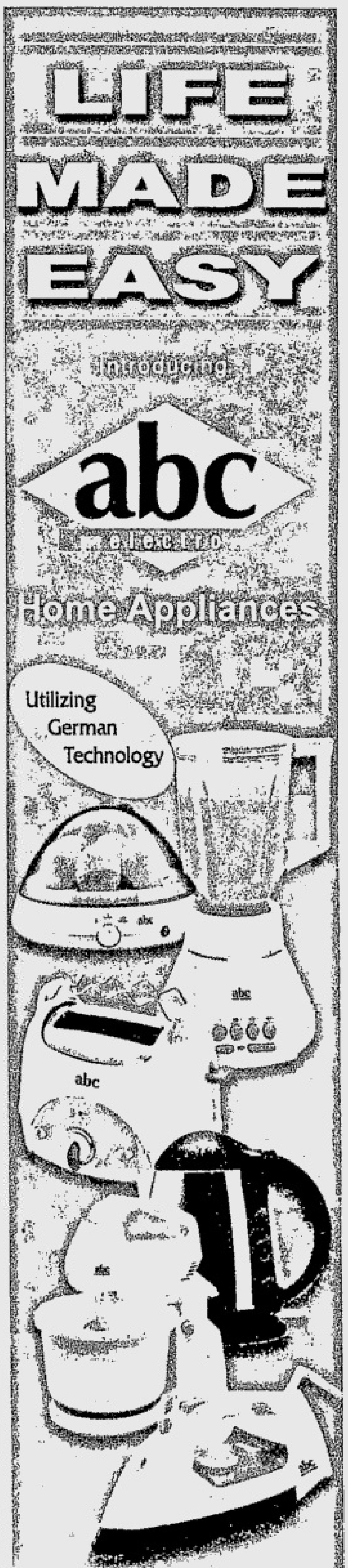
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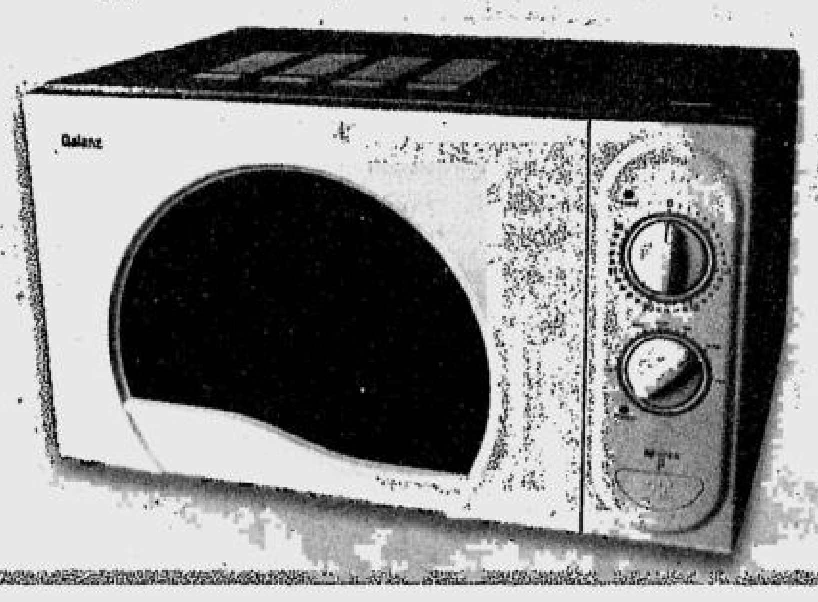

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Samsung N620	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	9,500	8,500	6,500	5,500	4,500	2,500	1,000	FREE
Ericsson T66	14,500	13,500	12,500	11,500	9,500	13,500	11,500	11,000	10,000	8,000	7,000	6,000	4,000	2,500	500
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	14,500	13,500	11,500	10,500	9,500	7,500	6,000	4,000
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	15,000	14,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	6,500	4,500
Philips Fisio 820	19,000	18,000	17,000	16,000	14,000	18,000	16,000	15,500	14,500	12,500	11,500	10,500	8,500	7,000	5,000
Motorola V70	23,500	22,500	21,500	20,500	18,500	22,500	20,500	20,000	19,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	11,500	9,500

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Alcatel OT311	3,500	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	2,500	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,390	4,090	3,740	3,290
Trium Mystral GSM	3,500	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	2,500	500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,690	4,390	4,040	3,590
Nokia 5210	9,500	8,500	7,500	6,500	4,500	8,500	6,500	3,500	FREE	FREE	—	—	—	—
Samsung N620	13,000	12,000	11,000	10,000	8,000	12,000	10,000	7,000	3,500	FREE	—	—	—	—
Ericsson T66	14,500	13,500	12,500	11,500	9,500	13,500	11,500	8,500	5,000	1,000	—	—	—	—
Nokia 6510	18,000	17,000	16,000	15,000	13,000	17,000	15,000	12,000	8,500	4,500	—	—	—	—
Motorola V66	18,500	17,500	16,500	15,500	13,500	17,500	15,500	12,500	9,000	5,000	—	—	—	—
Philips Fisio 820	19,000	18,000	17,000	16,000	14,000	18,000	16,000	13,000	9,500	5,500	—	—	—	—
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(From page D1)

Where hair is hardly an academic matter

HAPPY TALK. Girls sport a casual hairstyle.

Unilever sets up the Lux Academy to better educate Filipinas on the latest in hair technology and trends

NO need to tie up the hair after a working day.

HAIRSTYLE with minimum fuss

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LOCATION: OAKWOOD
SPECIAL THANKS TO MELLISSA LEDESMA AND ANNA DIAZ

Ray of white

ASIANS are obsessed with skin whitening for vanity and practical reasons. Clear and fair skin is associated with purity and nobility. Dark spots (pigmentation) are linked to poor health. Asians are also the most prone to hyperpigmentation since they are out of the sun most of the time.

Clarins, the French company famous for its plant-based beauty products, has stepped up its whitening range with the introduction of White-Plus Essence. This essence scales dark spots and dull skin and checks melanin growth.

The formula consists of plant extracts with Vitamin C and is enhanced with the whitening effect of Vitamin E. Mandarin and grapefruit facilitate an even distribution of the formula through the gentle scaling of melanin pigments. Mulberry, brown algae and Vitamin C lower the quantity of melanin produced by melanocytes: Chamomile and parsley retard the origin of the pigmentation process.

Asian-friendly

Peggy Cheng, international training manager, says White Plus Essence is designed for Asians. Two clinical tests were conducted in Singapore, the results showed that after three months of use, women experienced even skin tone (94 percent), skin tolerance (100 percent), and radiant complexion (93 percent), diminished brown spots (100 percent).

Cheng says Clarions goes the natural way since plants give continuous and prolonged benefits.

Since Asians are constantly exposed to the sun and work in an air-conditioned office, the White-Plus Essence not only protects the skin from incidental exposure to sun rays but also moisturizes the skin when it is dehydrated in an air-conditioned place.

"The moment you try the product you know it's good. Immediately, the skin is firmer, and softer and won't leave the skin dry unlike other whiteners," says Cheng.

White-Plus comes with a soap that gets rid of the dead cells so that the skin can absorb the essence. There's a special ritual in using this soap.

To seal in the beneficial properties, it is best to use the Lightening Powder Foundation and reapply throughout the day.

Natural light

Clarins introduces natural light pigments, called fine flat alumina, which mirror the light much like bare skin does. The pigments are grouped like tiny balloons. When the powder is spread over the skin, the color doesn't build up and look heavy, especially during retouches.

If you notice, after lunch your foundation becomes darker. That's because the powder and the sebum on your skin mix with the perspiration. It's the same thing when you add water to flour: the mixture gets darker. A Japanese team added photochromic pigments that assimilated the excess light to ensure the same color tone regardless of the lighting and climate. Even in humid weather, the foundation won't change.

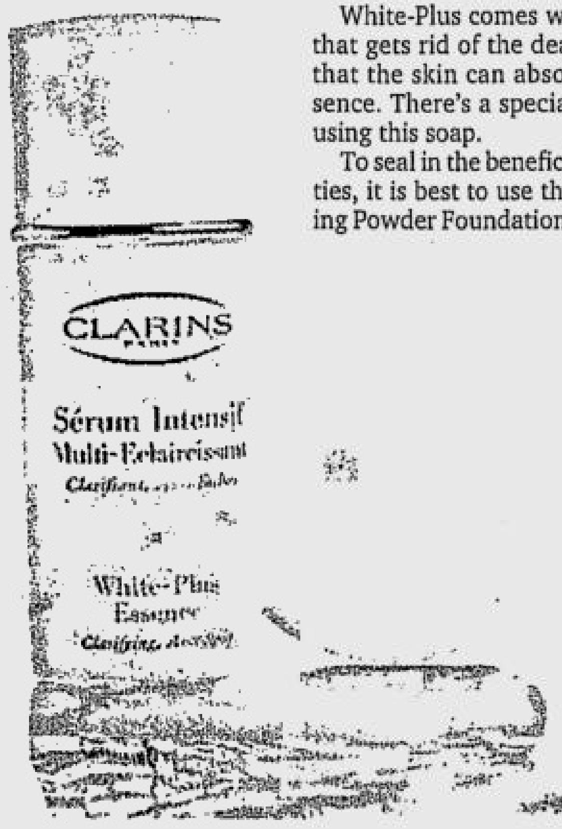
"Makeup artists say if you have wrinkles, avoid applying powder on top of them because they will be accentuated. It is not the case," says Cheng. The light-correcting pigments give the illusion of obscuring flaws and imperfections through a soft-focus effect.

Cheng adds that Clarins' Lightening Powder Foundation contains mica that prevents foundation powder from turning pale.

"When you go under the light or sun, the color is not going to turn white. You won't look like a zombie," she says. The formula also contains beneficial ingredients to protect the skin from the aggressive city environment. Chamomile and licorice prevent allergic reactions while sun filters help prevent dark spots from forming.

Cheng says Clarins' cosmetics and day lotions contain an anti-pollution complex that prevents skin aging and checks free radicals.

Marge C. Enriquez



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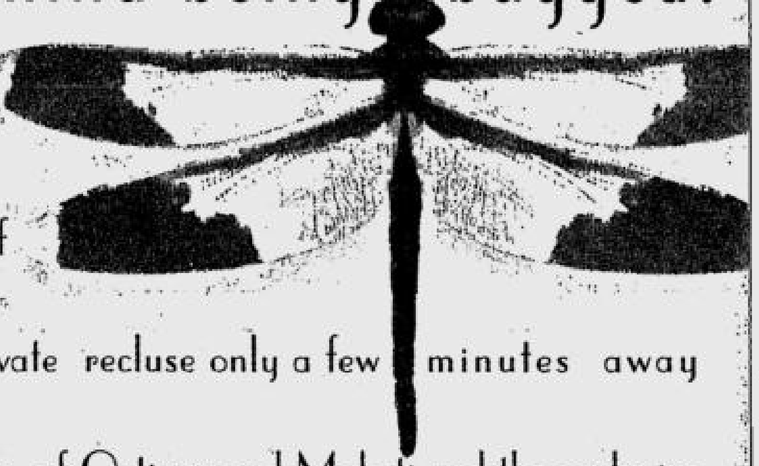

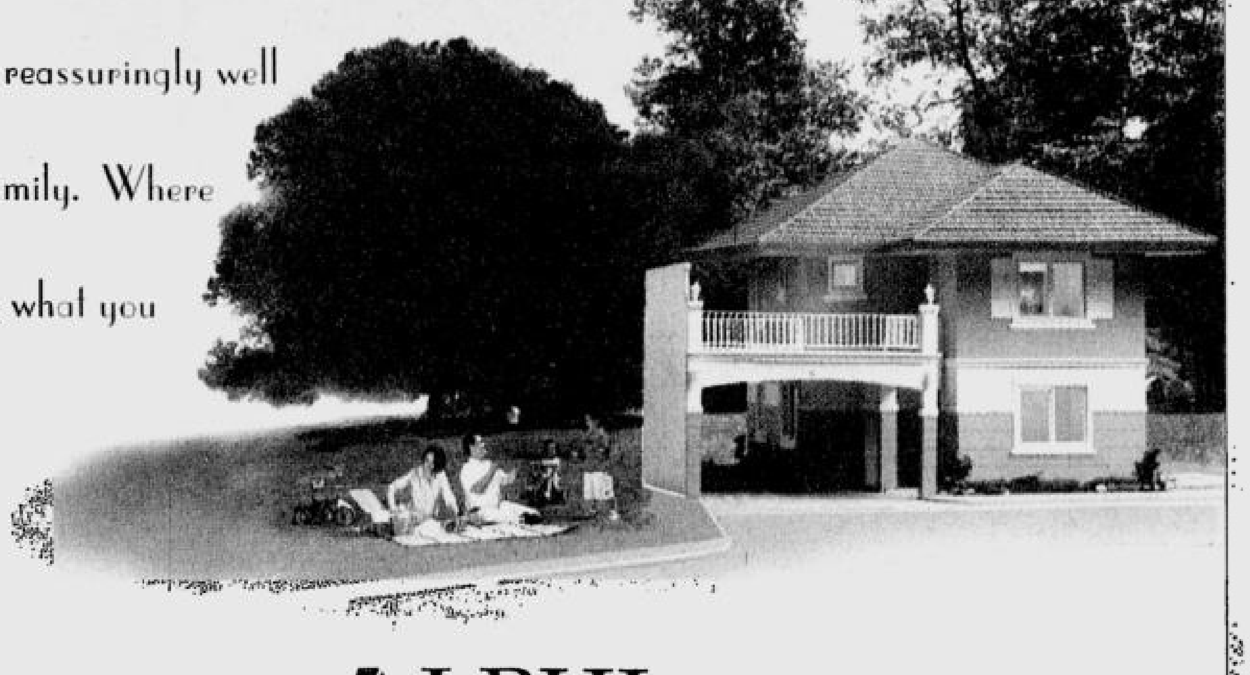

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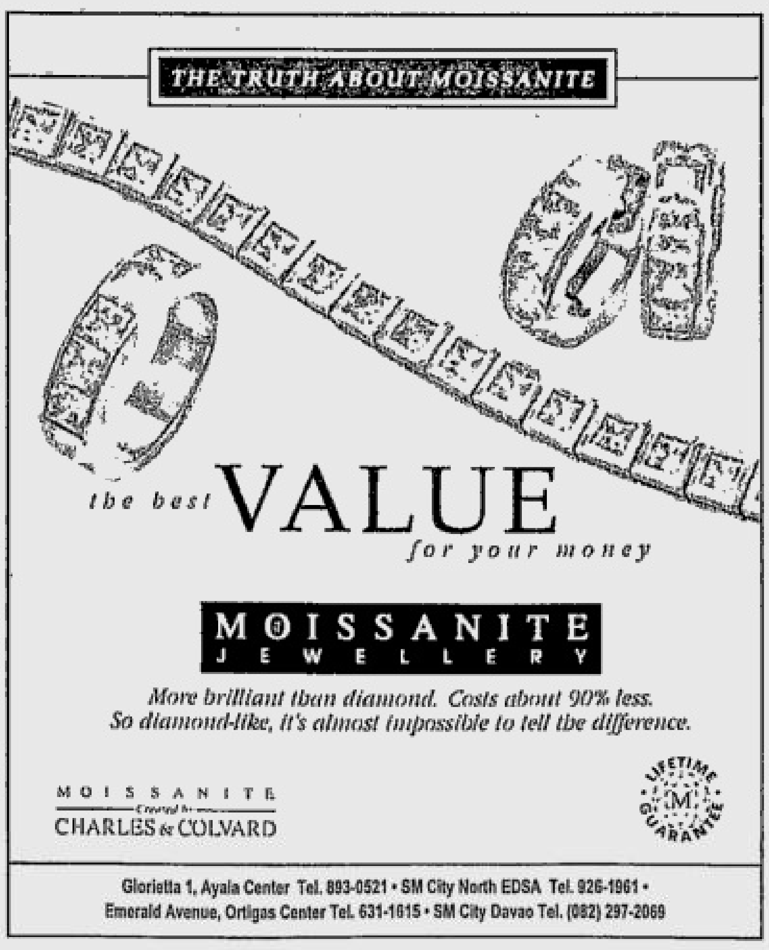
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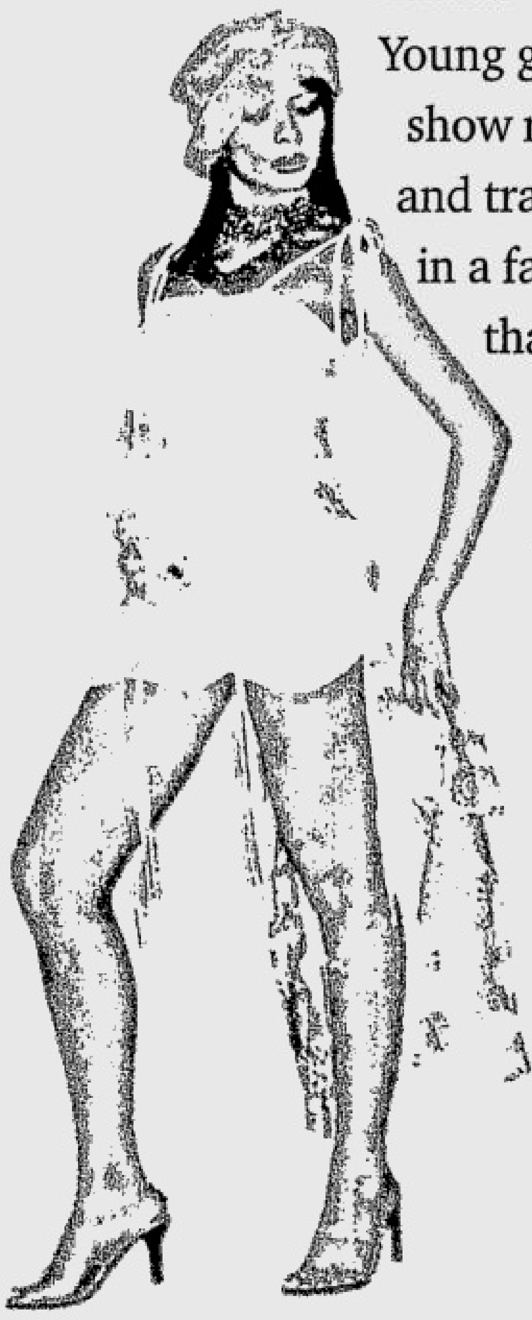
Young guns of style show recklessness and traditionalism in a fashion show that shuns the formulaic and the ho-hum



GIRL from Marseilles. Sexy dressing à la Française in swagged lace by Mimi Sanson

A spray of idealism and vision in fashion 'circus'

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Chito Vecina

NOT enough Circuses is a company that aims to swim against the tide of convention, athwart formulaic art direction and production. Composed of director Ariel Lozada, Michael Salientes and Yodel Pe, this group has organized the Fashion, Arts and Design or FAD series, which presents what's new and what's now—by Manila standards.

Its first offering was a three-day event featuring young guns such as Paolo Raymundo for menswear, Mimi Sanson, Arcy Gayatin, Patrice Ramos, Dennis Lustico and the fast-rising Jesus "Jojie" Lloren.

Guests were impressed with the ambience at the NBC Tent. The runway was eschewed in favor of a semi-arena. High-tech lighting created patterns on the floor and in the cyclorama. Models walked and traced the space and in the finale, they all converged like pedestrians on the street. Although Commes de Garçons has done this kind of show some 20 years ago, to the Manila audience, the experience was unique from the usual ramp shows that had models strutting down in badly made, overdecorated clothes.

Impressive

We caught the night of the group show. Cebu-based Gayatin impressed the audience with her treatment of lace upon lace. Ramos' clothes evoked fragility with the overlays of gossamer fabrics. To us, the standouts were Lustico for his bold experiments with patterns and Sanson for her layering skills and the deft use of pleats, whether it was sewing the butterfly sleeves or tucking them on top of each other.

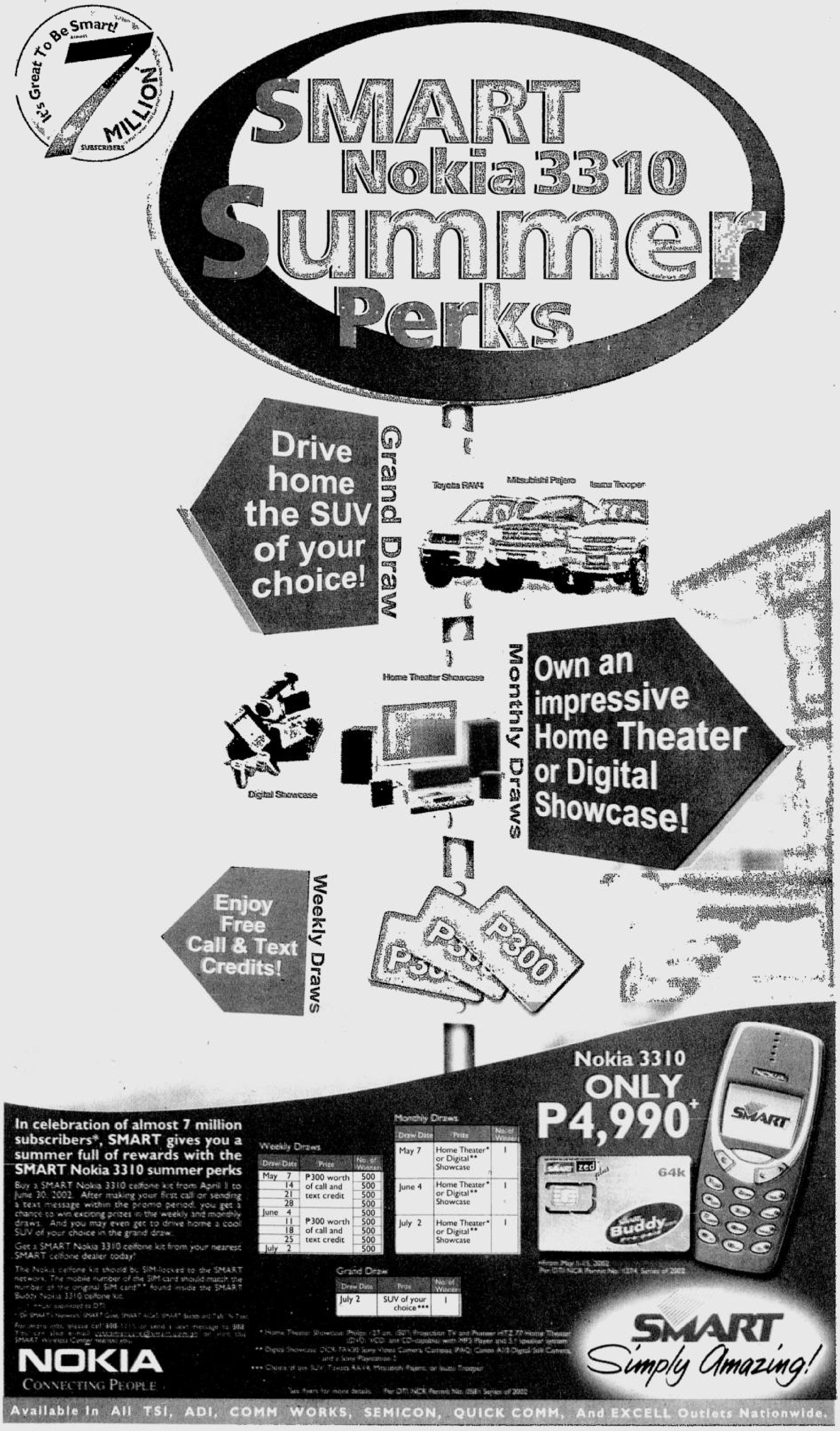
Although their clothes grabbed the audience's attention for their visual appeal, Sanson and Lustico focused on technique rather than artifice. Both of them showed a good sense of proportion and the craftsmanship

A SPRAY/ p.E4

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma San Juan

is out of town and will be back next week with a review of Jesus Lloren's collection.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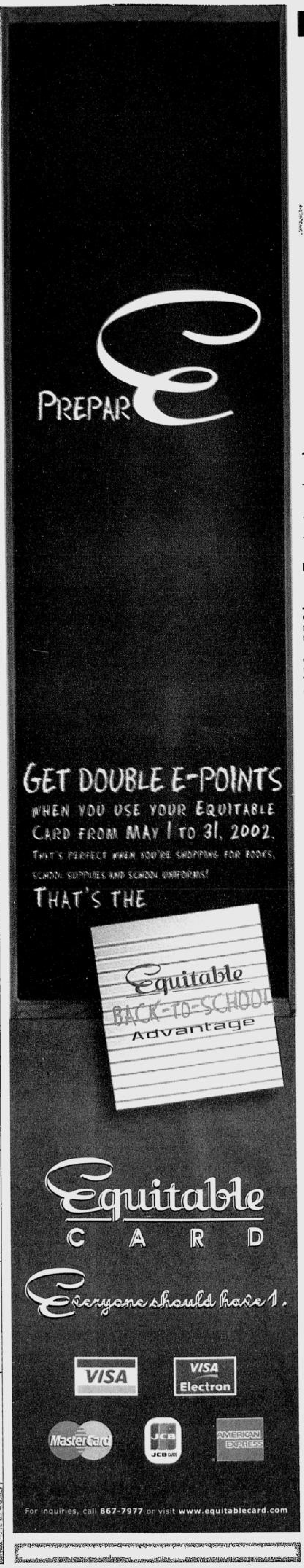

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Defining moments

ON GIA Suter Napkil, knit top by Criselda, khaki twill by Viseversa and wedge mules by Modigliani. On Rory: Khaki drawstring waist dress by Jam

Photos by Raymond Lauchengco

AMONG the great perks of being alive is being close to one's young. In having children and bringing them up, mothers present gifts to the future, cast in their example.

We asked three moms to share defining moments in their relationship with their daughters. Their stories reflect two minimum essentials for being a parent: love and wisdom.

To Gianna Suter Nakpil, a teacher at International School, one high point was being on the receiving end of pure feelings. Her daughter Rory once wrote her a Mother's Day note that said, "Even though you are busy, you make time for me." The simple statement affirmed all of Gia's efforts at giving her children as much of herself as she can.

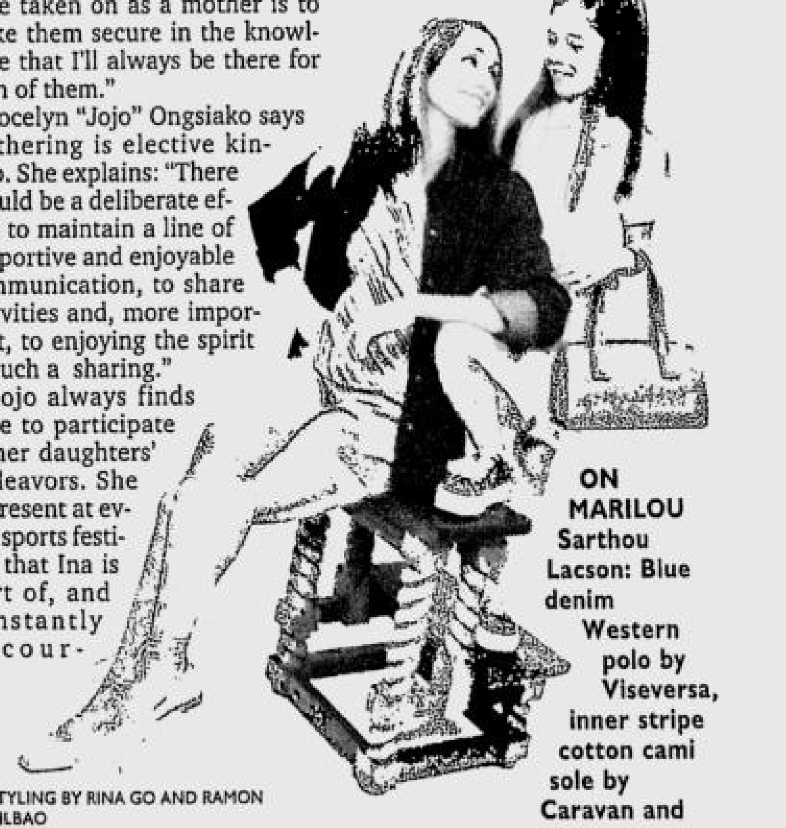
"And all that I give, I give them equally," Gia stresses. "There are children who find reason to ask why one sibling is loved more than another by a parent. The task I have taken on as a mother is to make them secure in the knowledge that I'll always be there for each of them."

Jocelyn "Jojo" Ongsiako says mothering is elective kinship. She explains: "There should be a deliberate effort to maintain a line of supportive and enjoyable communication, to share activities and, more important, to enjoying the spirit of such a sharing."

Jojo always finds time to participate in her daughters' endeavors. She is present at every sports festival that Ina is part of, and constantly encourages her, even in games at children's parties.

Her other daughter, Patricia, an aspiring model, wants Jojo to be present at all her video tests. She is also Patricia's best shopping buddy. The daughter says she values her mom's opinion more than her peers' when it comes to buying things for herself. For Jojo, this is enough of a reward.

Businesswoman Maria Lourdes "Marilou" Lacson remembers the day she taught her daughter Alessandra the value of friendship and the sweetness of forgiving. The girl had not been talking to her best friend for several days, and was unhappy. Marilou learned that the girls had fought. She initiated the reconciliation, explaining to her daughter the importance of making up with the friend, if only because neither of them was feeling good about what happened; they were both just too proud to apologize. Marilou and the other mom brought the girls back together.



ON MARILOU Sarthou Lacson: Blue denim Western polo by Viseversa, inner stripe cotton cami sole by Caravan and camel hotpants by Viseversa. On Alex: Pique knit dress by Jam

STYLING BY RINA GO AND RAMON BILBAO
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY VICTOR ORTEGA
OF EMPHASIS SALON
MAKEUP: SHISEIDO
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ON JOJO Reyes Ongsiako (center), peasant knit blouse and prairie skirt by Viseversa and mules by Pedro Garcia. On Patricia: Red one-sided butterfly-sleeved knit by Viseversa, Denim bootleg jeans by Mavi, shoes by Nine West. On Ina: Red cotton knit top and denim slit skirt by Jam

Vivian Zapanta's road to well-being

One of the first truly original fitness gurus of the country has learned the best health lesson: life heals and revives

ZAPANTA. The International Dance Exercise Association has just appointed her as its Philippine ambassadress. She was the first Filipino member of this prestigious group.

VIVIAN Zapanta, a trailblazer of the fitness industry in the Philippines, is 48 but doesn't look it. She owes it to her 5 P's—positivism, peace, parenting, Pilates (she is certified to teach the mat classes based on the Pilates method by the Exercise Science Alliance in California) and "*pa-ganda*."

"Z" has been driven to excel since childhood. It all started with the feeling of alienation from her father. She did everything to win his attention by being an achiever. A sickly child, she nearly died of hepatitis. Later on she realized that her father had mortgaged the house to pay for her medicine. Zapanta graduated with honors in physical education and for her master's thesis, she wrote a manual for aerobics teachers.

When she was still married, one of her privileges as a pilot's wife was to travel. In Chicago, she attended a fitness convention that presented the latest techniques, which she later taught in the Philippines. Zapanta became a cult figure with her television shows and her fitness studio.

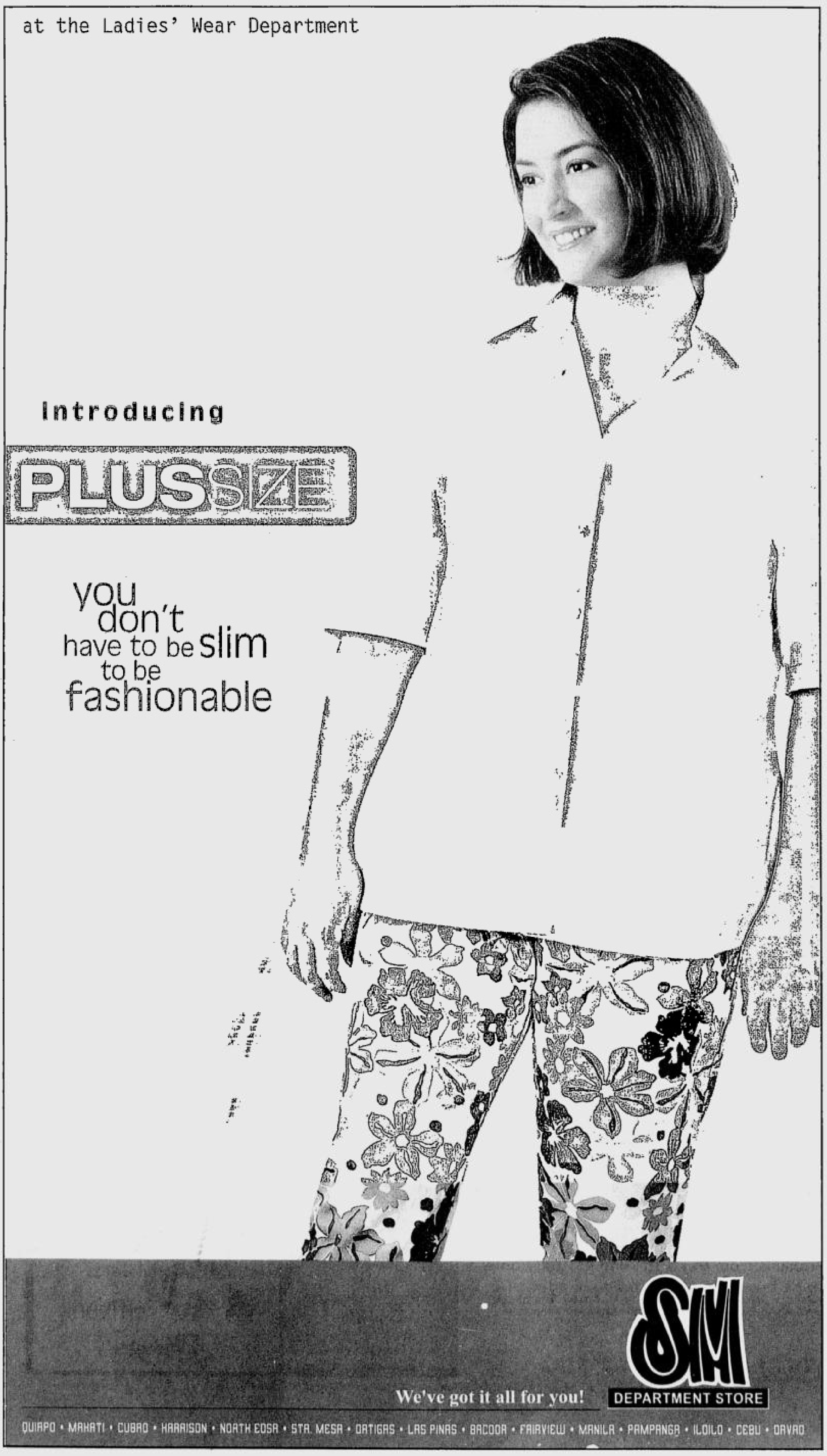
She broke off from her husband on the grounds of infidelity. While other women would wallow in self-pity, Zapanta said she transformed the negative feelings into positive emotions by getting into bodybuilding.

The most difficult has been being a single parent in the past 15 years. "I could not rely on anyone. After crying you pick yourself up and move on. Time heals," she said. Zapanta ran a gym, which was right in front of her home. After work, she could spend time with her only child, Sheila Suzette. Asked how she's managed to raise the daughter, she replied, "I just instill what's good and what's bad. Shouting and reprimanding don't work. I talk to her in a nice and pleasant tone," said Zapanta.

She quoted a biblical imagery about children being the shepherds' parents. Through Sheila, Zapanta learned how to balance love and law. This balancing act is applied in her role as resort manager at the Westin Philippine Plaza health club.

"I'm a mother to my own people," said Zapanta. "They also need guidance. Sometimes I call their attention about something, afterward I show affection."

PHOTO BY CHITO VECINA
HAIR AND MAKEUP BY ANGELO JUSTIN
FOR FRANCK PROVOST



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A spray of idealism and vision in fashion 'circus'

From page E1

was commendable. Their clothes made references to pre-industrial or ethnic societies.

A self-taught designer, Lustico developed his talent by analyzing the way clothes were constructed. Lustico's clothes were reminiscent of Rei Kawakubo's experiments in the '80s. Actually, he was inspired by the way women dressed to church in his hometown in Samar. He recalled growing up in the '80s, amused at the way women wore exaggerated proportions (such as padded shoulders and pouf skirts).

LORNA T. came to support business partner Arcy Gayatin.

Diamond

He pegged his collection on the diamond pattern he remembered from a church dress in the '80s. The diamond pattern was interpreted in various ways such as the strapless dress that took off from the godet skirt. Pieces of electric-pleated organza were piled, pressed and attached to create a dress that looked like an umbrella.

He also used fishnets, again another provincial reference, combined with soft fabrics such as Thai silk and organza. He favored colors that evoked richness such as butter, cream, olive, mustard and pistachio. The result—a concept that was unified, original and delicious.

Maria Cecilia Sanson, 26, took up a semester in pattern making, construction and color series in Toronto. Three years ago, she started out as a house designer for Milkwear before

PITOY Moreno and Ramon Bilbao at NBC Tent

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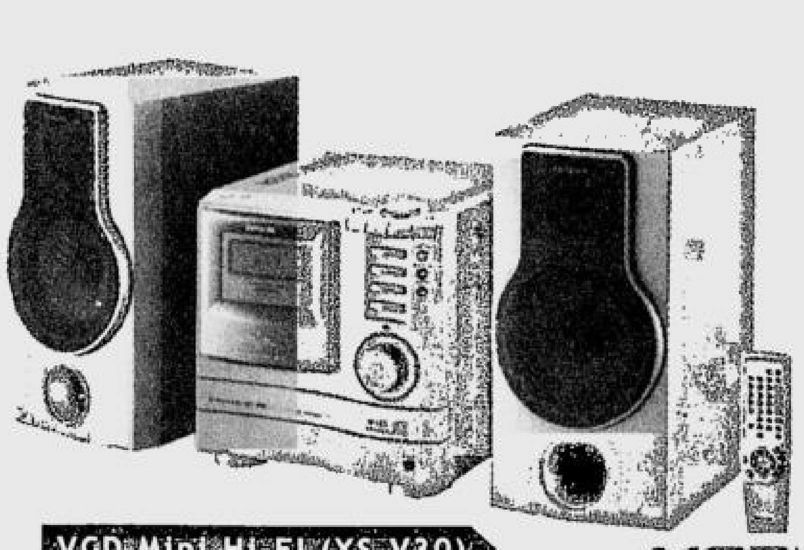

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going on her own and exploring the world as a backpack tourist.

After returning from colorful India, she was inspired by the locals' penchant for vivid colors and wrapping the body in layers. The clothes were sexy and feminine. At first, the collection started with cream and graduated into jewel colors such as turquoise. She played with layers in soft materials, created tiered tops in georgette, and mixed fabrics to see how the layering would go with the body movement. The audience lauded the way the butterfly sleeves were poached from the *terno* and reconstituted in a modern dress. The butterfly-sleeved outfits were teamed with jackets for a modern twist.

French look

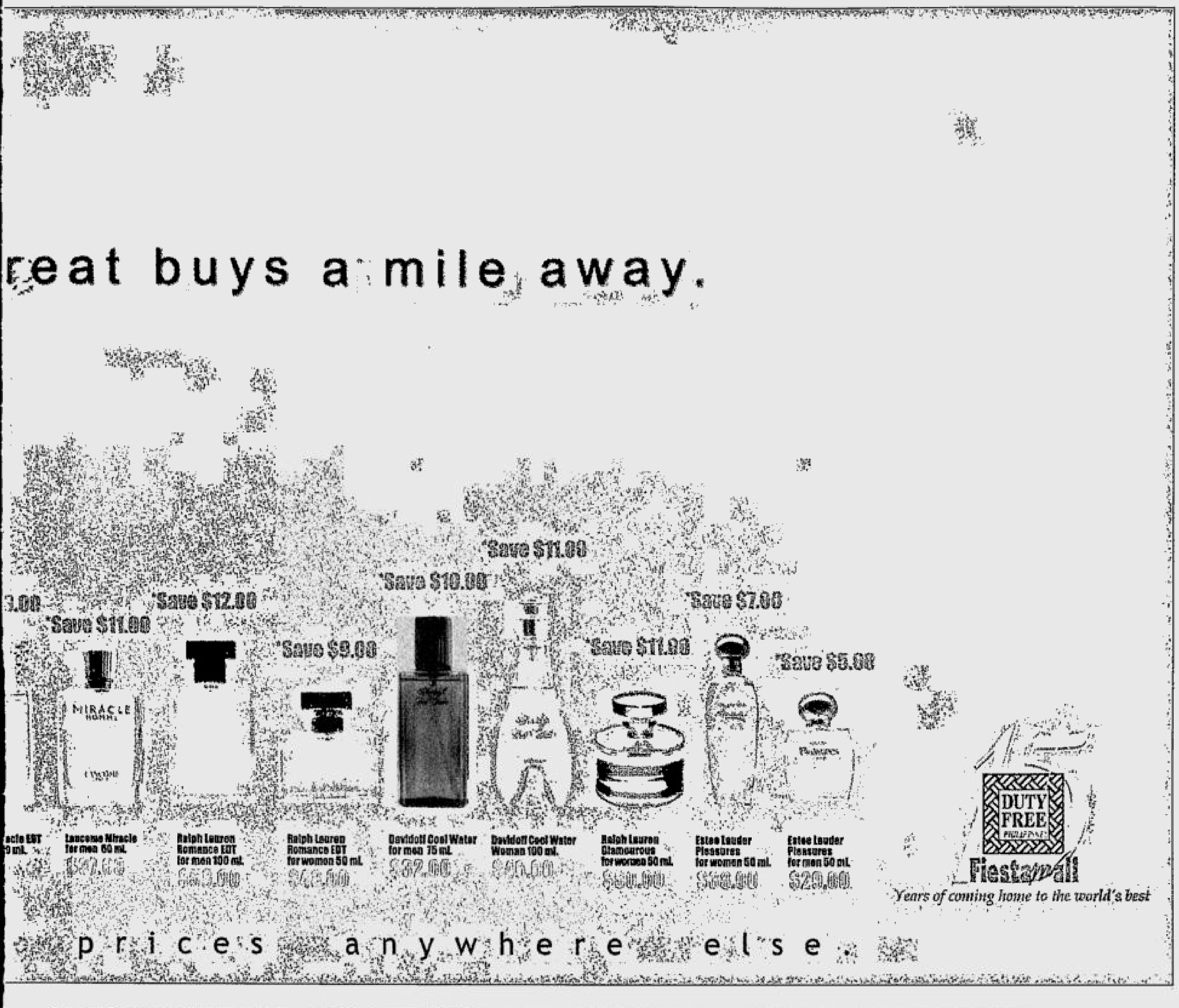
Sanson also used tassels from curtains and made a swagged lace dress that could be worn as a mini or long blouse. Some dresses evoked a French look.

What struck this writer was the young designer's dedication. Asked why her clothes stood out for their precise craftsmanship, Sanson replied, "I don't trust anybody else to make them. I make the pattern and cut it myself. I sewed 80 percent of the clothes. That's quality control."

The clothes seemed novel to the Manila audience in terms of treatment. However, the looks had been done before; these designers adapted them to the tropical climate. If we were to nit-pick, we could spot some lapses such as using the wrong fabric for the design, or incorrect placement of the collars, bloated waistlines or simply lack of knowledge in advance techniques. However, these designers are still young and have room to grow. It's their drive for perfection and idealism that will lead them to success.

More photos on page E7

WRAP top with swagged, draped skirt by Dennis Lustico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LANA shows how the maillot can be just as attractive as the bikini.

Vision in beachwear

Lana Asanin stops traffic at the Global City in a Canovas bikini

Photos by Wahoo Guerrero

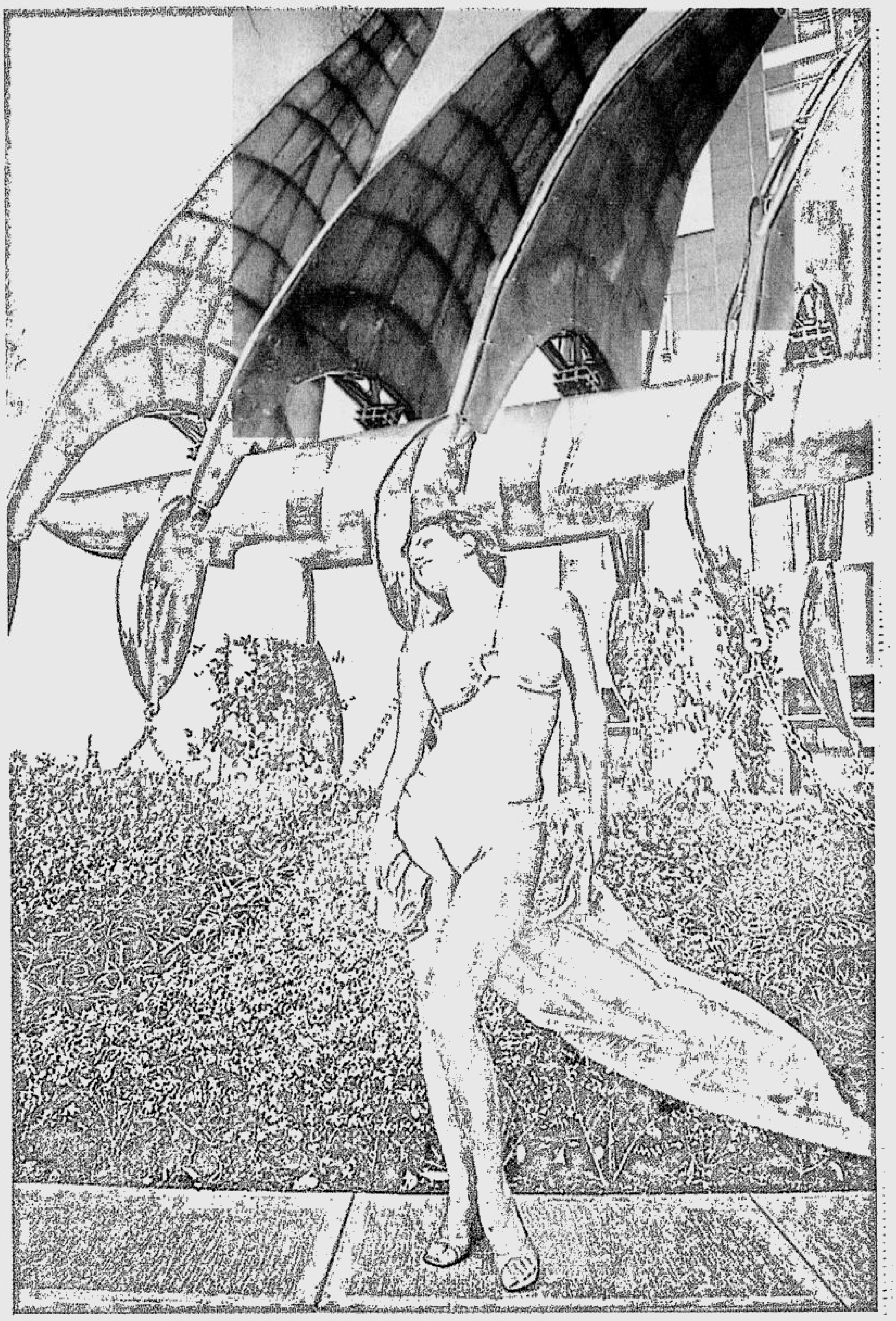
E! Philippines' model-emcee Lana Asanin looked as if she stepped out of a dream clad in a bikini in the middle of the street.

She was modeling a French resort wear brand in the middle of Fort Bonifacio's Global City. Men couldn't help but ogle at her 36 (cup B)-24-36 figure. Men stopped their cars to ogle at the hybrid beauty with perfect proportions.

It was not only Asanin's figure that caught the public's eye. The clothes by Manuel Canovas were also a sight to behold. Canovas was interested in the visual arts. His father, a painter and author, exposed him to botany, which later reflected in his works.

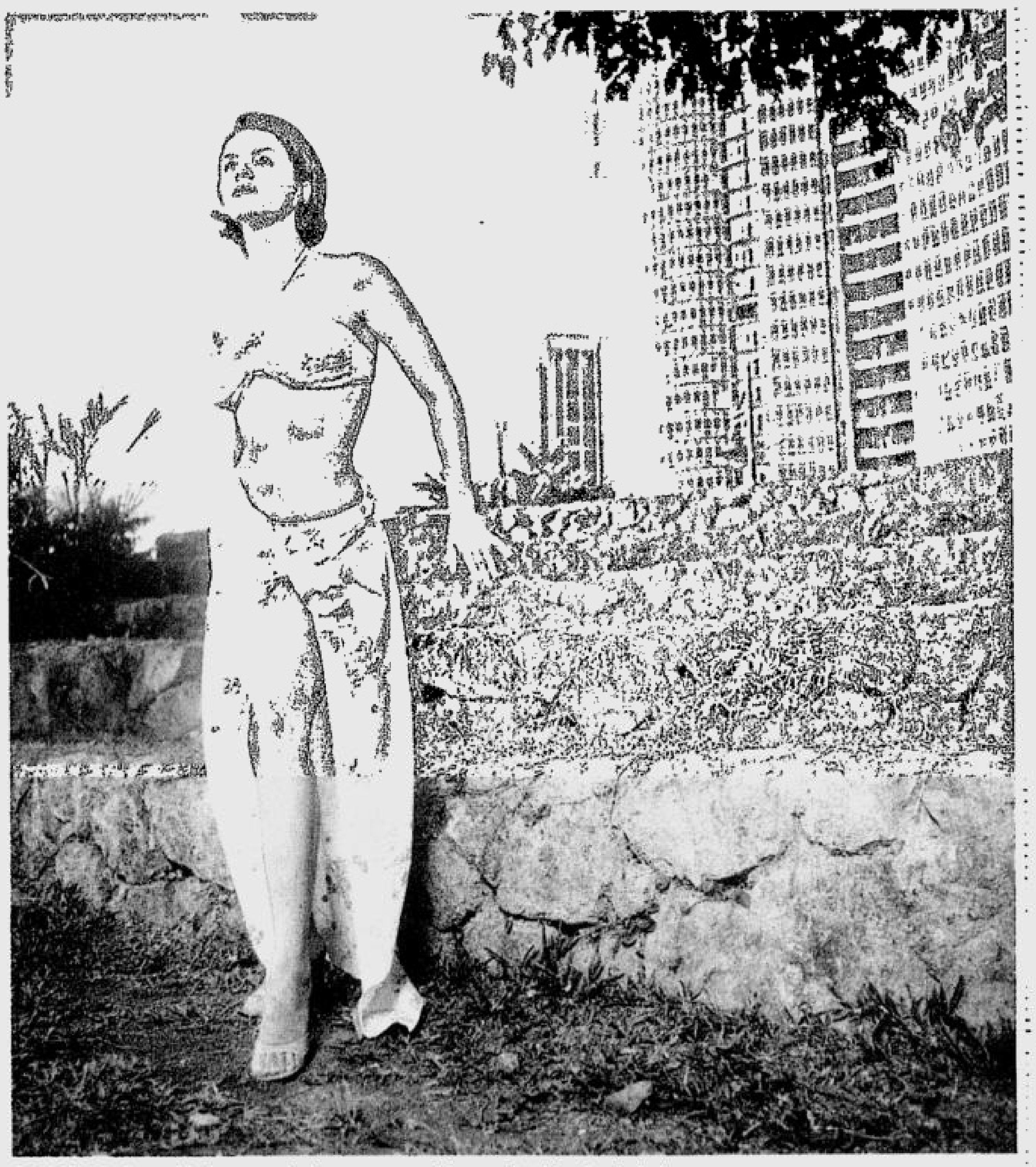
After studying at the Beaux-Arts de Paris and the Beaux-Arts de Rome, Canovas established his own company to produce decorative fabrics and wall covering. He combined his precision as a draftsman with the instinct of a colorist. His travels became subjects for his prints and also inspired him to create his beachwear collection in bright colors and fine prints. Later he improved the line with accessories and became a real reference in the world of fashion and the symbol of high style. Aside from fabric and interior design, he developed his own line of fragrances.

Today the House of Manuel Canovas is part of the English fabric company and interior decorating firm, Colefax and Flower.



E! Philippines' model-emcee Lana Asanin interprets her version of Marilyn Monroe in "The Seven-Year Itch."

CANOVAS is known for his harmonies of refined colors, unique florals and luxurious weaves. The prints reflect his childhood interest in botany.



CANOVAS shows his interest in Japanese graphic arts in this classic halter.

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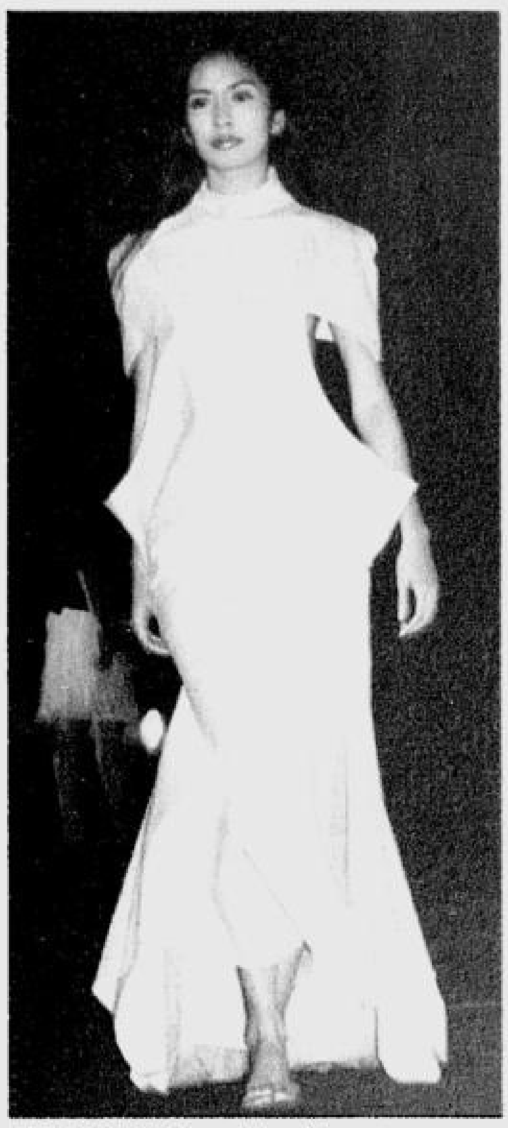
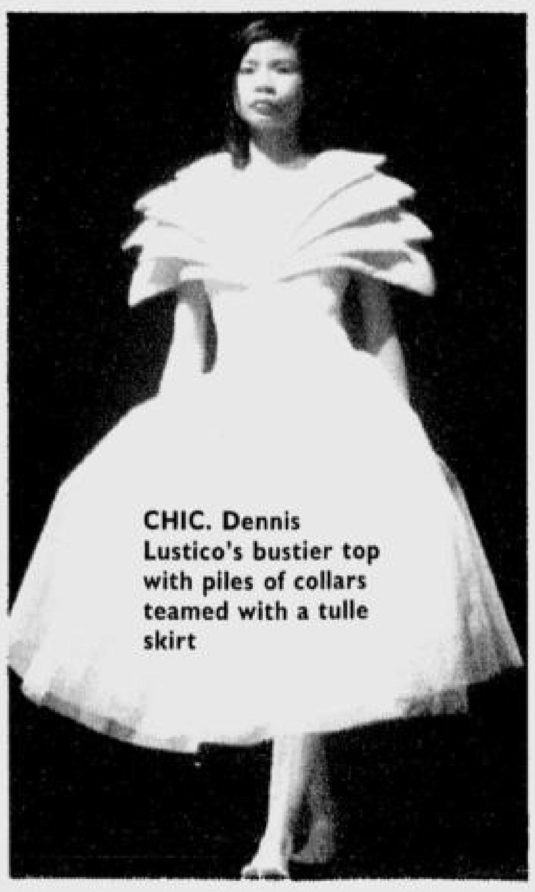
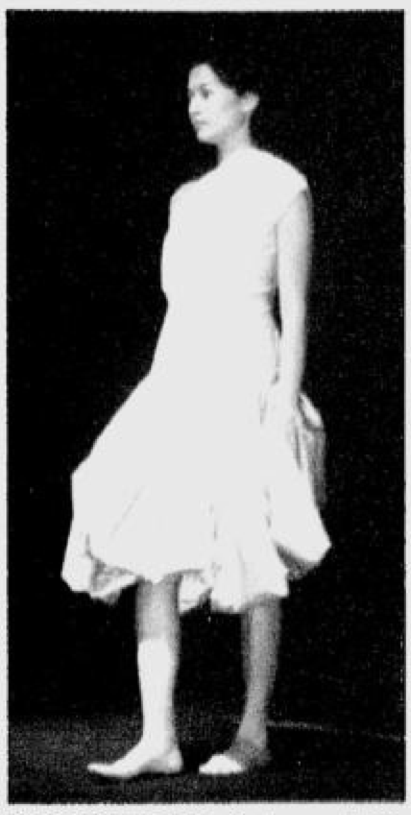
LOCATION: JERRY ARAOS GARDEN, FORT BONIFACIO GLOBAL CITY



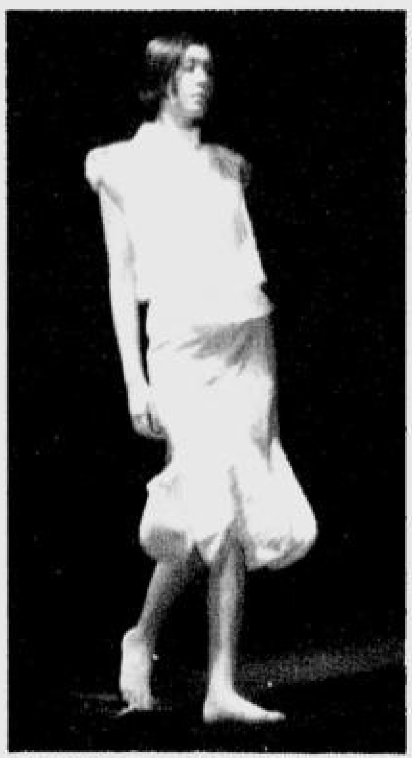
ALL IN ONE. Caped shoulders, torso with exaggerated envelope sleeves and a trained hem by Lustico



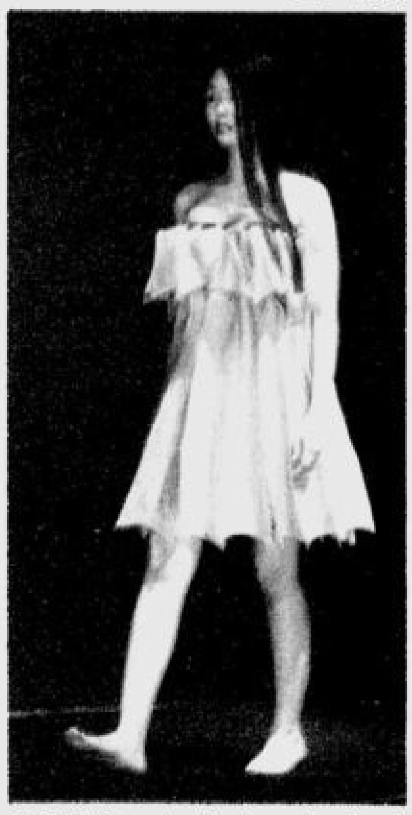
CHIC. Dennis Lustico's bustier top with piles of collars teamed with a tulle skirt



UNI-SHOULDER tulle top and silk bubble skirt, millennium version



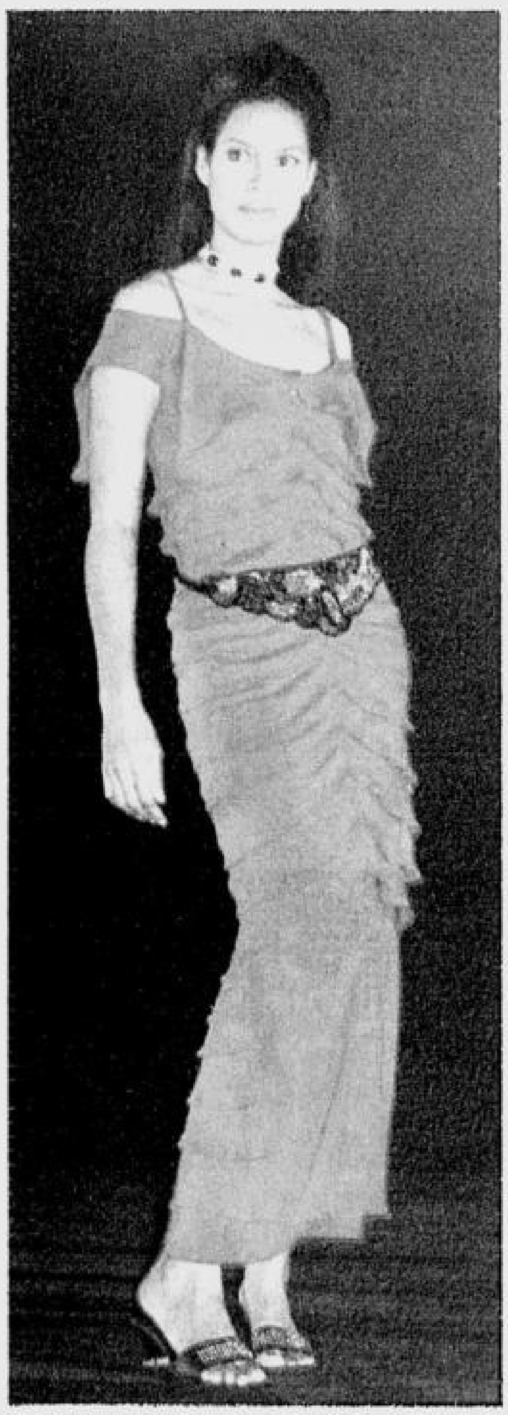
SOFT blouson with colle montee and lightly padded extended sleeves worn with an umbrella-edged skirt



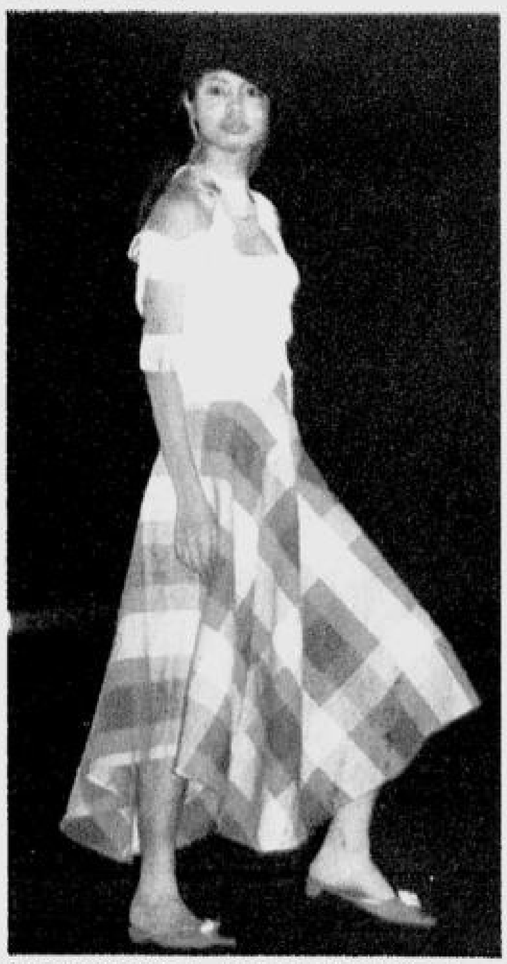
PLEATED umbrella dress inspired by the godet skirt

A spray of idealism. . .

From page E5



PLEAT after pleat after pleat in fuchsia knit by Sanson



LA RESISTENCE. French beret with off-the-shoulder tasseled top worn with a plaid hanky skirt

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Burst of freshness in a staid scene

By Tim Yap
Photos by Mags Paguyo

Paolo Raymundo's menswear line shows brashness, ingenuity and wearability

"IT'S WEIRD. I'm usually a ball of nerves ready to explode," said young designer Paolo Raymundo on how he felt about the audience's positive response to his menswear collection featured a week ago during the FAD (Fashion, Art and Design) series staged by Not Enough Circuses.

"I guess I was just really prepared for it more than I had ever been," Paolo said. He recounted his experiences with "guerrilla" fashion shows where the designers themselves were busy with other aspects of production. For this FAD show, all he had to do was concentrate on his collection, which he described in one word as "riddled."

"In Manila, a collection is judged on its wearability. This FAD series of shows should be judged differently. The young designers works should be appreciated like art. When you see an abstract painting, sometimes you don't even need to know what it is trying to say. It just moves you," remarked a designer.

Paolo was able to achieve both wearability and vision in his collection. His take on menswear had this distinct humor in it, full of witty contradictions. Think "Richie Rich goes stowaway and hangs out with the gang of Mr. T" and you get an idea of a contemporary collection that is unconventional, layered and embellished while retaining its masculinity.

Garbage trimmings

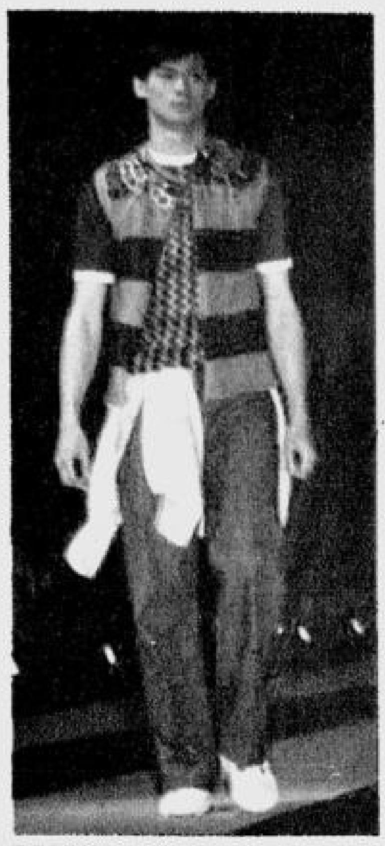
Two years ago, this menswear maverick was working on overalls for his Milkwear collection. Last season, everyone from Raf Simmons, Martin Margiela and even Japanese magazines went crazy over the overalls and jumpsuits.

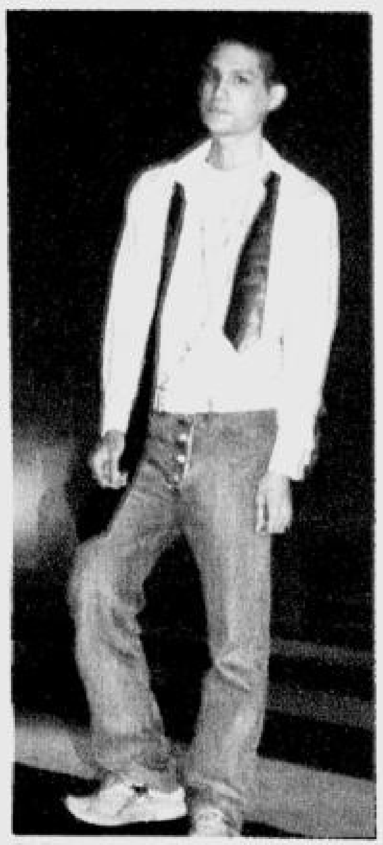
"Ahead of his time, this guy," I overheard somebody saying.

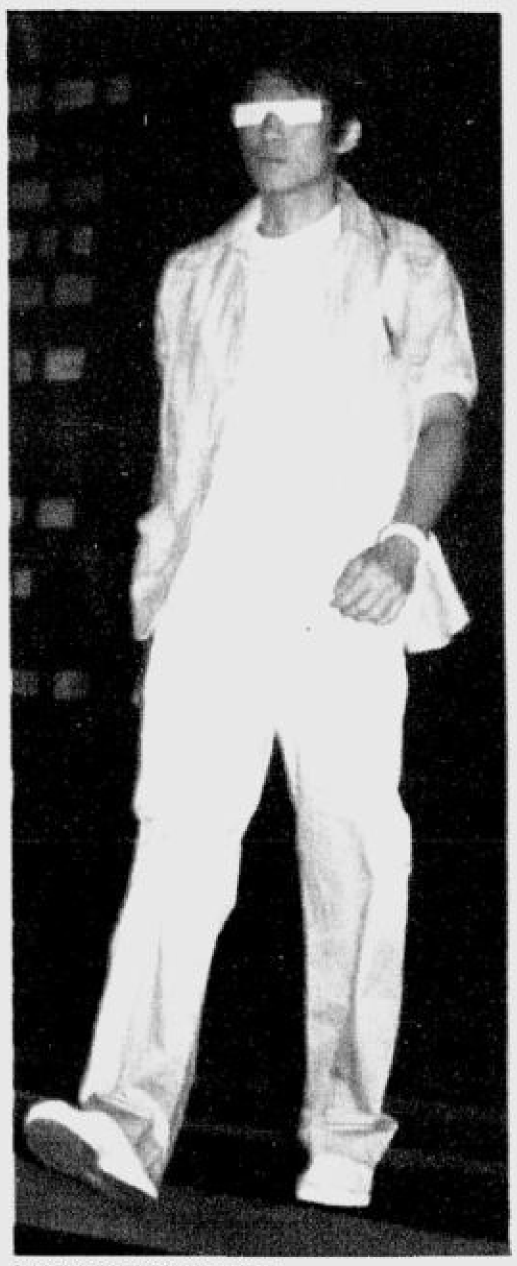
I adored his aprons, which were actually styled jumpsuits with "garbage trimmings" like keys and other thingamajigs sewn on them by the creative young lad. He also had "fake layering," pieces that merged two pieces of clothing into one. He showed his mettle in construction, tailored suits and hand-painted details.

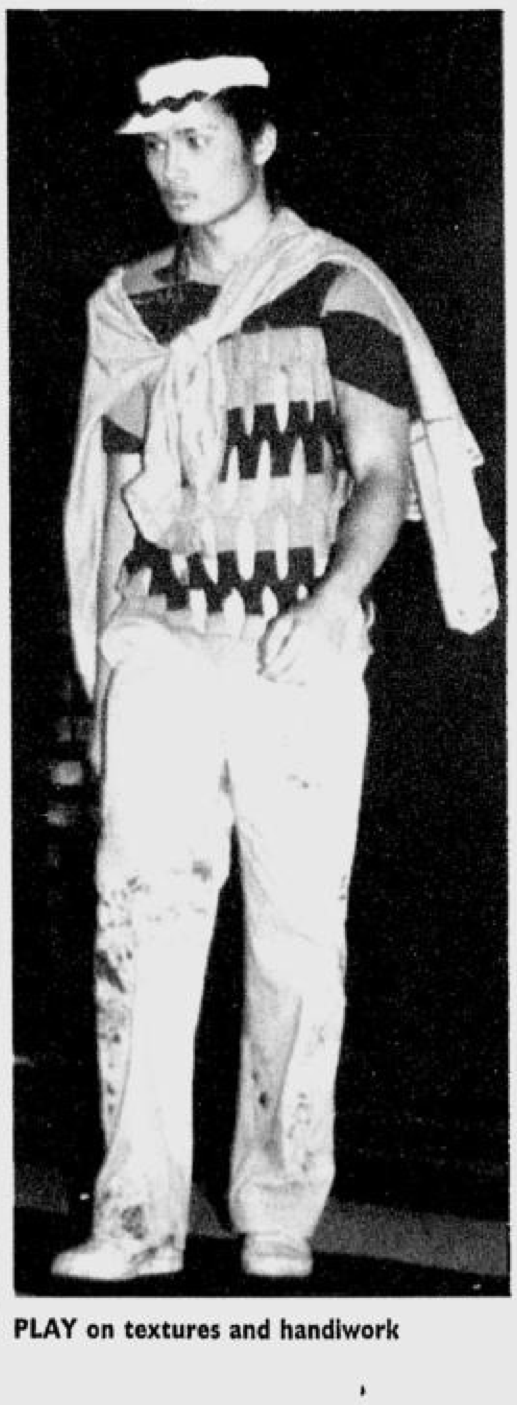
"What are you doing *here*?" asked other guests after his show, obviously goading the 22-year-old upstart to go to the fashion capitals of the world, as they congratulated him. It is precisely this attitude that is sometimes so frustrating. We need more people like him in this industry. Fashion-forward, driven and hardworking folk will always want to create, innovate and take the next bold steps, which is exactly what the scene needs to be inspired.

Kudos to the Not Enough Circuses group of director Ariel Lozada (who outdid himself each night with his coordination of great lighting, interesting choreography and unusual music), stylist Michael Salientes and company for presenting Manila with fresh ideas that push the scene to its limits and beyond—truly "flying in the face of convention."


DECONSTRUCTION


RICHIE Rich meets Mr. T


I-AM-CURIOUS yellow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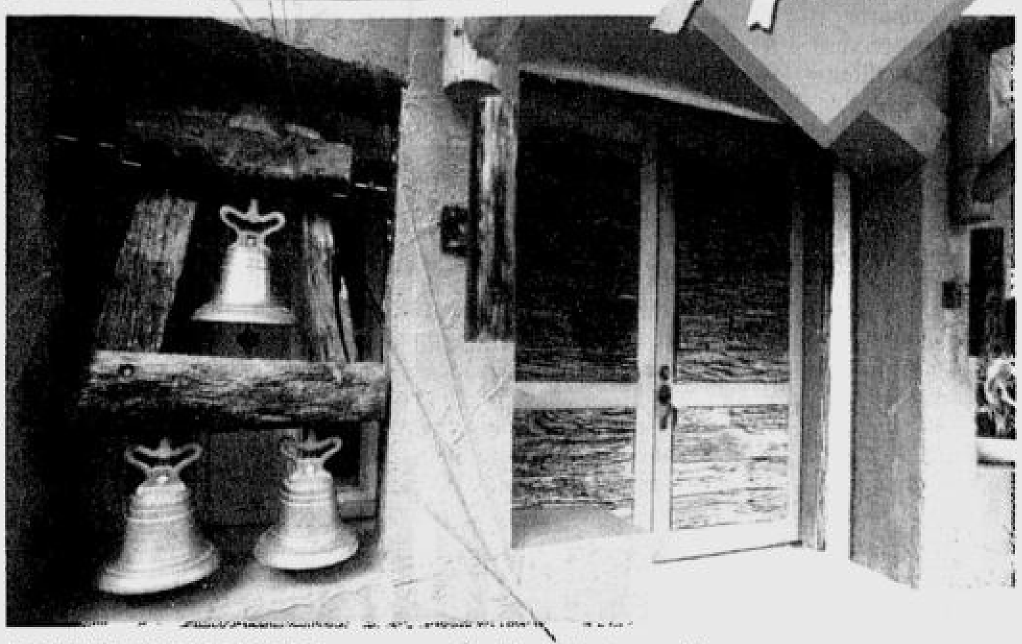


NORTHERN EXPOSURE. Entrance to the Abad Santos residence is inspired by a church in Northern Luzon. The huge double doors add to the house's *pueblo* feel.

Deconstruction with whimsy

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Bobot Meru

A house at the Peninsula de Punta Fuego in Batangas shows a creative couple's design give and take

CREATIVITY will always out. Despite certain architectural limitations imposed by developers of Peninsula de Punta Fuego (tel. 807-2232 to 34), an upscale community in Nasugbu, Batangas, several homeowners have found a myriad of ways to express themselves through their offbeat weekend homes.

Rather than confine their respective hideaways to Spanish Mediterranean lines—with red shingled roofs, white walls and de rigueur verandas offering breathtaking vistas of the sea—the Chua and Abad Santos families have infused a variety of elements and influences without completely departing from Punta Fuego's Iberian-inspired theme. Say what you will about their houses, but boring they're certainly not.

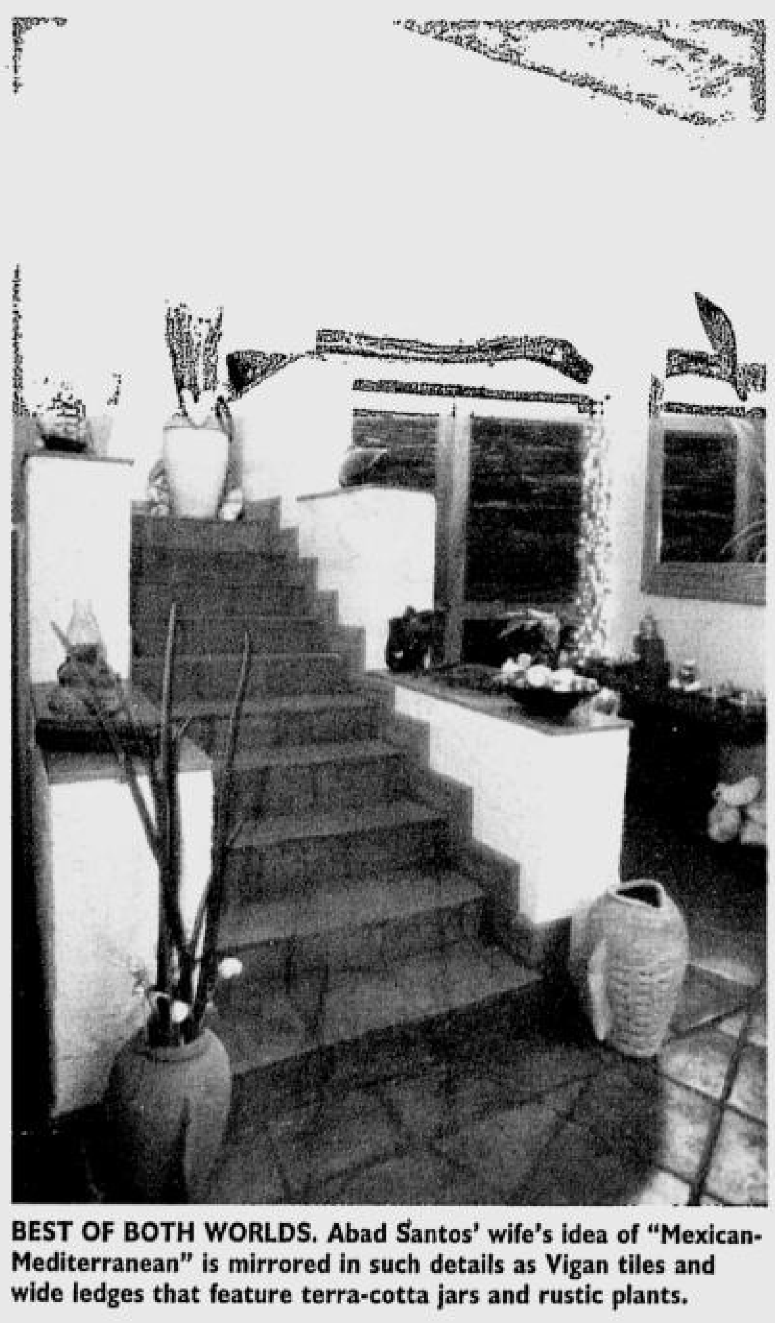
The Chuas, for instance, did away with an architect and interior designer while conceptualizing their pastel abode perched on the peninsula's hilly terrain. They came in much later to put into reality the hubby's wacky ideas.

Viewed from the sea, the four-story structure resembles a luxury cruise ship built with a balcony on every deck. It stands out from the other houses because of its light yellow walls, white eaves and huge arched windows. A skylight made of stained glass on the third floor is actually a reclining door that leads to a roof deck.

Yes, it was ophthalmologist Noel Chua, not his wife Marie, who called the shots during the 18 months it took them to build the house. Most of the time the wife had quietly stood by her husband's decisions (or indecisions), but there was a point when she had to put her foot down.

"Not only is he a perfectionist," says Marie, "he's also full of ideas—often doable, sometimes not."

DECONSTRUCTION/ p.F3



BEST OF BOTH WORLDS. Abad Santos' wife's idea of "Mexican-Mediterranean" is mirrored in such details as Vigan tiles and wide ledges that feature terra-cotta jars and rustic plants.

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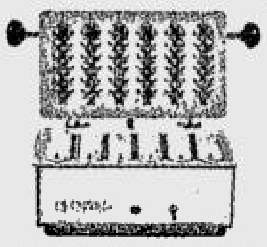

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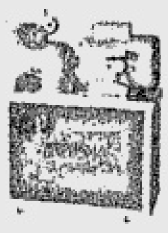
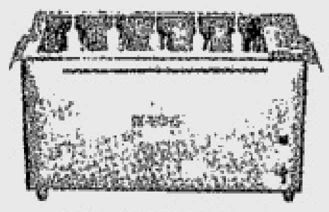
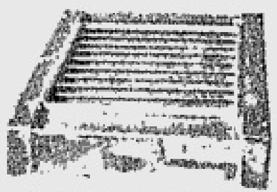
Bread Warmer



Ice Crusher

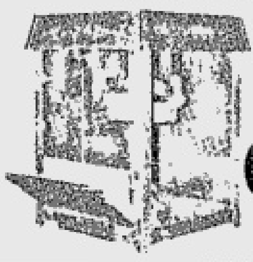


Hotdog on Stick

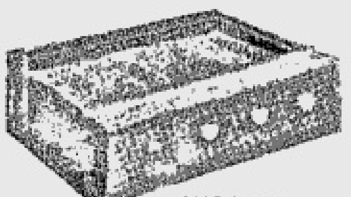


Hotdog Roller

Saucer Sandwich maker



Popcorn machine



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THE SECOND Sunday of May is a particularly special time for it allows us to express our love and appreciation for that "great woman" who gave us life and has tirelessly worked for our comfort and happiness.

This year, Mother's Day will be marked on May 12. Let's show that special woman how much we appreciate her by giving gifts she will surely like.

Cora Purificacion, president and general manager of one of the country's leading chains of flower and plant shops, gives some tips for Mother's Day gift-giving. Purificacion, being herself a parent, knows what a typical mother wishes to have.

She suggests:

- You take your mom out to lunch or dinner on Mother's Day. Find out what her favorite food is and take her to a restaurant she has not tried.
- Take her on an overnight picnic with the family on Mother's Day.
- Surprise her with a new dress, shoes or bag, or even a simple piece of jewelry.
- Prepare breakfast or lunch for her, making sure you include her favorite dish. You can also bake a cake for her if you know how.
- Go to church with her then take her to a movie. Make her relax and enjoy the day.
- Write her a simple but personal note thanking her for everything, and tell her how much you love her.
- Give her a bouquet, corsage or an arrangement of fresh flowers like roses, orchids, mums, daisies, etc. Get her some potted flowering plants or herbs for her cooking like basil, mint, parsley, oregano, tarragon, etc.

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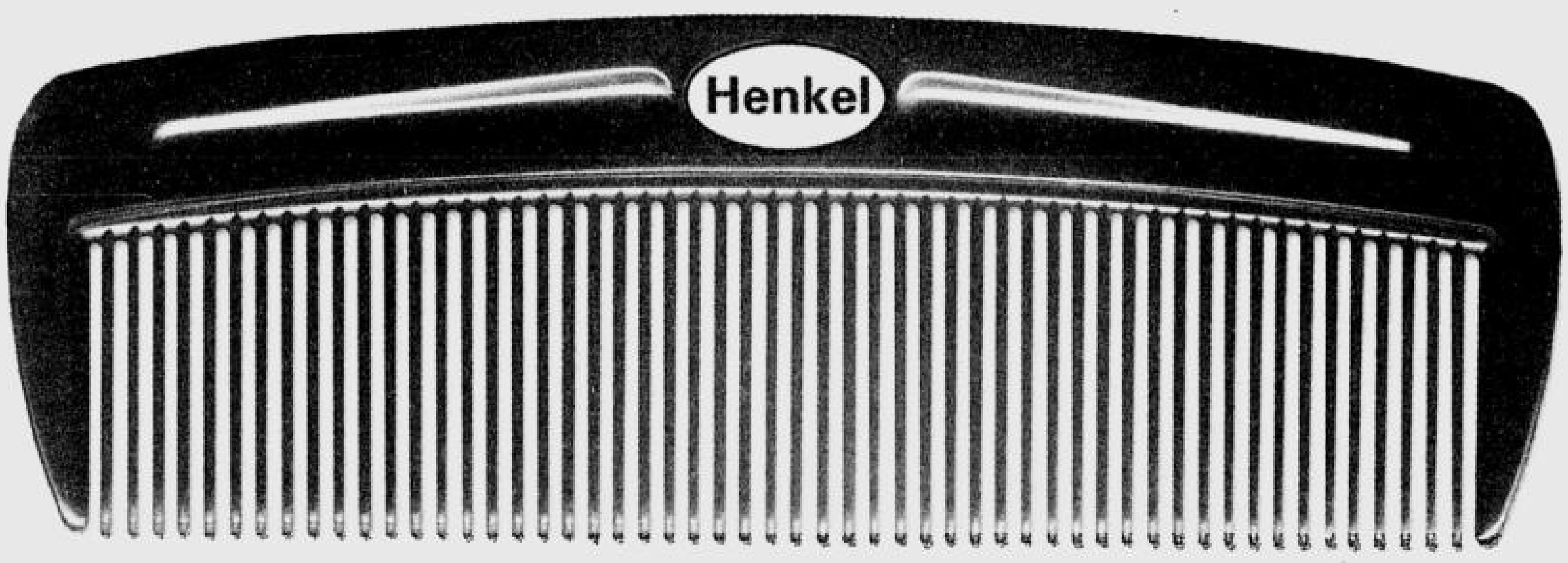

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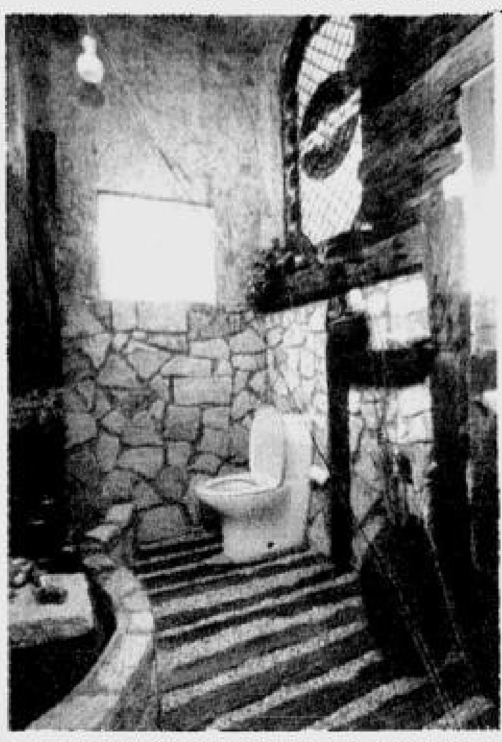

TOUCHY FEELY. The Chuas' powder room by the living room eschews boring tiles and dated marble slabs in favor of irregular, more tactile materials such as rocks and concrete for the walls and *traviesas* interspersed with white stones for the floor.

Deconstruction with whimsy

From page F1

Noel, for instance, didn't hesitate to tear down and redo certain areas of the house if they didn't conform to what he had envisioned. Aside from being expensive, such a process unduly prolonged the house's construction. The stairs leading to the bedrooms are an example.

"He wanted the baseboards to follow a particular pattern to match the steps," says a smiling Marie as she points to the stairs, several steps of which are somewhat mismatched. "The problem was it took the builders a day or two to do a particular step. I had to finally step in and put an end to it. Otherwise, we'd probably be without a weekend home until now."

Rare

Those were rare instances, however, since Marie was happy to let Noel take over and express his ideas. After all, the couple followed the same arrangement when they had their Valle Verde home built much earlier.

"If you value your marriage," says Marie with a chuckle, "you might as well let the other person call the shots when it comes to building the house."

Although Noel wasn't around during this interview to defend himself, his presence was very much evident in the details. His penchant for "deconstruction" was quite obvious in the clever use of mixed media—from pebbles to rocks, stained glass to old railroad ties or *traviesas.*

The powder room by the sala, for instance, did away with boring tiles and dated marble slabs. Rather, Noel went for irregular, more tactile materials—rocks and concrete for the walls and *traviesas* interspersed with white stones for the floor.

There's method in the madness, mind you, since Noel himself carefully selected most of the pieces that went into a particular section. Stained glass, the same one that brightens the stair landing outside, lends some color to an otherwise rustic setup.

"He had searched for the ugliest, most worn-out pieces in Bacolod," says the wife about the railroad ties. "You should see our home in Valle Verde. It looks like it just survived an earthquake."

The same home caught the attention of an engineer, who mistook the cracks for structural defects. Rather than feel insulted, Noel took his observation as a compliment.

"That's how he thinks," says Marie. "You should have seen how he once burned the edges of a coffee table. I nearly cried!" Never mind since his attention to details and obvious attempts at lending some character to their Punta Fuego house have obviously paid off.

The beige living room floor mirrors his fondness for deconstruction, with certain portions lined with pebbles and uneven pieces of dark red clay set in concrete. Sky-blue daylights peep from hidden edges of the recessed ceiling patterned after irregular cloud formations and distressed by uneven streaks of blue and white paint.

Lilia and Danny Abad Santos' beachfront property is a different story. It exudes a unique charm that's neither Spanish nor Filipino. The wife called the shots this time and she has managed to come up with a "Mexican Mediterranean-inspired" home, never mind if Mexico, like the Philippines, is nowhere near to that famous body of water.

Focal point

One of the house's focal points is immediately displayed for everyone to see: a niche by the entrance featuring three church bells dangling from an old wooden frame. A huge double door separates it from an opposite niche that features several potted plants.

"We got the idea from one of the those beautiful churches up North," says Lilia. "But this time our bells are cuter and not as loud."

The *pueblo* feel is evident as soon as you enter the house or, in this case, houses. Lilia had a separate two-story structure built for her three grownup sons and their families. It blends seamlessly with the main house due to such unifying elements as red, shingled roofs and white exterior walls. The similarities with other homes in Punta Fuego end there.

Surprisingly, the annex, not the main

DECONSTRUCTION/ p.F7

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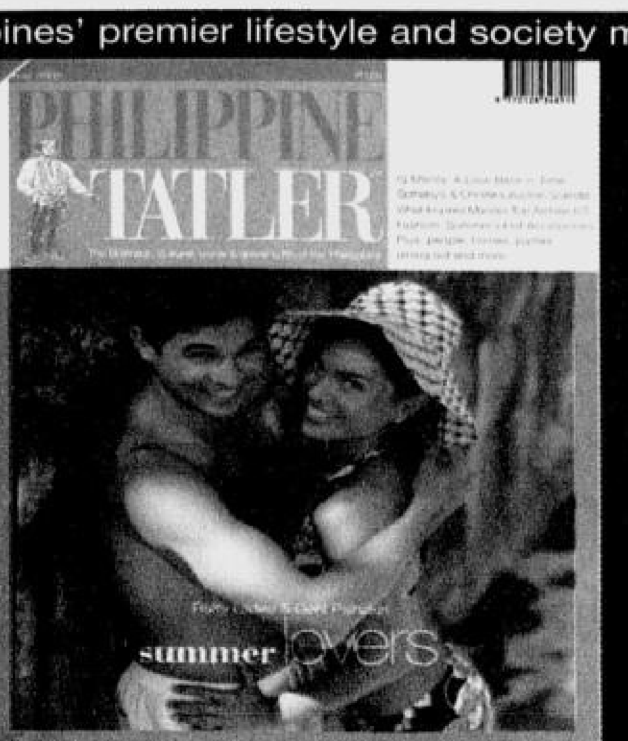

In this month's Philippine Tatler:
- Class with Class: Meet 9 individuals from Manila's New Society as they traipse around a tropical paradise in our sizzling summer pictorial.
- School Ties: As the International School gets ready to transfer to its new home, we take a nostalgic look back in time and then ponder its future.
- Visions: What drives Manila's design geniuses? The answers are here.

Plus: People, fashion, gossip, dining out, homes, travel, parties and more

at the Ayala Malls, we'll baby every mommy.

Happy Mother's Day! Show every mom the special treatment by taking her to Ayala Malls – the best place to dine, shop and unwind.

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT
Mother's Day Fashion Show
May 12, 3pm
Glorietta Activity Center
Featuring: Tweetie de Leon-Gonzales, Annette Coronel-Cruz, Apples Aberin-Sadhwani, Marina Benipayo, Patricia Panlilio Cu-Unjieng and Angel Jacob.

Mother's Day Card Making Contest
Intel Technology Festival
May 10-11 at the Glorietta e Lounge, 3/F
Make cards with Canon printers and digital cameras for FREE by presenting a single receipt worth P200 from any Ayala Center establishment.

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Mother's Day Concert
Featuring Ogie Alcasid
May 12, 7pm
Town Plaza
In cooperation with Almon Marina, Racks, San Mig, Delifrance and Dulcinea.
Tickets at P400.
Available at participating restaurants and Alabang Town Center Customer Service.
Each ticket covers a set-menu in one of the restaurants and entrance to Ogie Alcasid's show.

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Mother's Day Gifts
May 12
For every P300 minimum single purchase, get a balloon with a note
Win exciting household appliances
Discounts and freebies at participating stores
To avail of these gifts, visit the Discount Plus Counter, Ground Floor.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM MAKATI:
FIX bench salon
Jewelmer

PARTICIPATING BRANDS FOR MAKATI:
Basic for Kids • Collectiones New York • Ducks Unlimited • Ensembles/Freeway
Giorgio • Her Bench • La Pagayo • Marks & Spencer • Paripassu & Co.
Queen Alice • Replay • Rustan's • Sari-Sari • Terrie's Boutique • Vida Doria

The Ayala mall Events

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where's the G

Ⓖ People set the rhythm of summer fun... whatever you're into, wherever you are!

CLUBBERS PARTY ALL-NIGHT

» Bar Raid Circuit

Hook up with the fun-loving, adventurous Globe Ⓖ People as they make rounds of the hottest bars across the country! Free drinks for Globe subscribers spotted with a Ⓖ sticker! Join the Ⓖ hunt to win exciting Ⓖ gift certificates. Answer Ⓖ trivia correctly or fetch Ⓖ items in "Bring Me Game" for more sizzling surprises.

metro manila

Makati,	***April 26***	> Venezia / Wasabi / Streetlife / Hard Rock / Bedrock
	May 24	> Detour / Gerry's / Grilla / Che / Mati
Libis,	***May 3***	> Pier One / Po Na Na / Blue Onion / Giligan's / Sibil
Malate,	***May 17***	> Bedrock / Indiana Café / Larry's Bar / Arkdia / Taza Bar
bacolod	***April 26***	> Twenty-One Bar and Restaurant / Quorum Disco KTV / Mo2 Mexican Bar and Restaurant / North Bar and Restaurant / Azul Sanctuary
iloilo	***April 27***	> Buana Bar and Restaurant / Con Van Bar and Restaurant/ Barracks Bar and Restaurant / Jungle Bar and Restaurant / Salsa Bar and Restaurant
davao	***May 3-4***	> Barcelona / East St. Marce Retro Bar / Grasshopper / The Summit Bar / Asian Fusion, Taboan / Capt's Bar, Taboan
cebu	***May 10-11***	> Fuel / Vudu / High Life / Juke Box Resto Bar / Yo! Latino

» Street Bash *Tomas Morato, April 30*

Ⓖ People groove with ABS-CBN Talents at "Fiesta Para sa Kinabukasan". Enjoy great games and stunning surprises as you get together with all these celebrities.

FAMILY TREATS AND TRIPS

» Hot Discounts, Palawan, *April 19-May 31*

Douse the heat in Palawan! Flash your Globe Handyphone and enjoy discounts at the following:

Club Noah > 15% OFF on regular rates; 5% OFF on promo rates
Dive Link Resort, Coron > 7% OFF on regular rates

» Family Water Fun @ Splash Island, *May 25*

Take a dip in a group of 3 or more. Show your Globe Handyphone and one of you gets in for free. Get caught with a Ⓖ sticker to win fabulous freebies.

Sony Ericsson

SIEMENS
mobile

Hot Globe Gimmicks Nationwide!

METRO MANILA • CEBU • DAVAO • ILOILO
BACOLOD • PALAWAN • BAGUIO • BORACAY

April 26 - May 31

Get a Globe now so you don't miss out on the thrilling treats around!

GENTXTERS SUMMER SPREE

Flash your GENTXT card to enjoy hip treats and cool discounts on select partner establishments.

» Manila

- **IO Family KTV >** FREE 1 hour room rental, for a minimum of 2 hours.
- **Pier One Bar Grill >** 10% OFF on food and drinks, on cash; 5% on card
- **Tequila Joe's >** FREE Ice Tea for any food purchase.

» Boracay

- **Le Soleil de Boracay >** 15% OFF on room rates, food and drinks
- **Pearl of the Pacific >** 24% OFF on room rates; 15% OFF on food and drinks; FREE scuba diving and sailing classes
- **Tribal Adventure Tours >** 15% OFF on kayaks and bikes rentals and adventure package

» Baguio

- **Cactus Bar >** 15% OFF on food and drinks
- **Concorde Hotel >** 20% OFF on room rates
- **Gimbals >** 10% OFF on food and drinks on weekends

SPORT BUFFS' ULTIMATE RUSH

» Sportsfest @ Gameworx, May 18

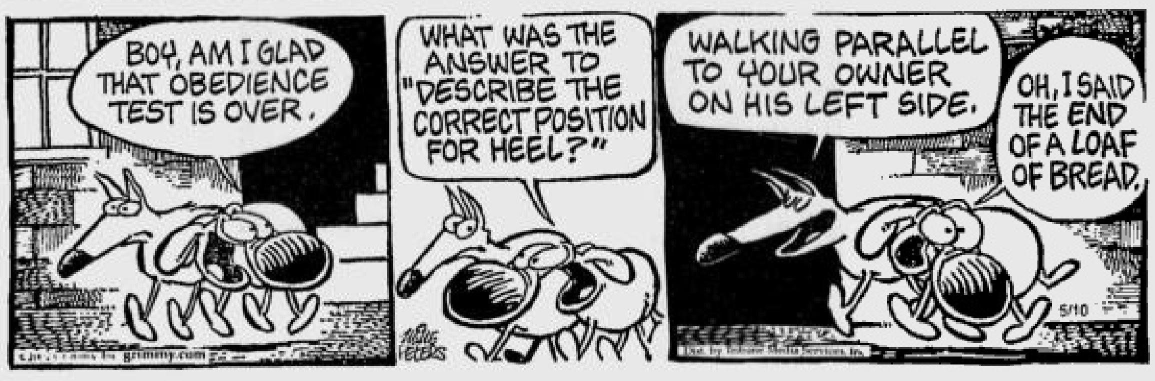
Adrenalin pumps as the Ⓖ People lead 4 teams in challenging sports events. Be there and join exciting rounds of paint ball, billiards, bowling, and darts to win awesome Ⓖ treats and prizes.

Visit any of our Globe booths in choice Ⓖ venues for more delightful deals. You can also get simmering surprises from Sony Ericsson and Siemens.

making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

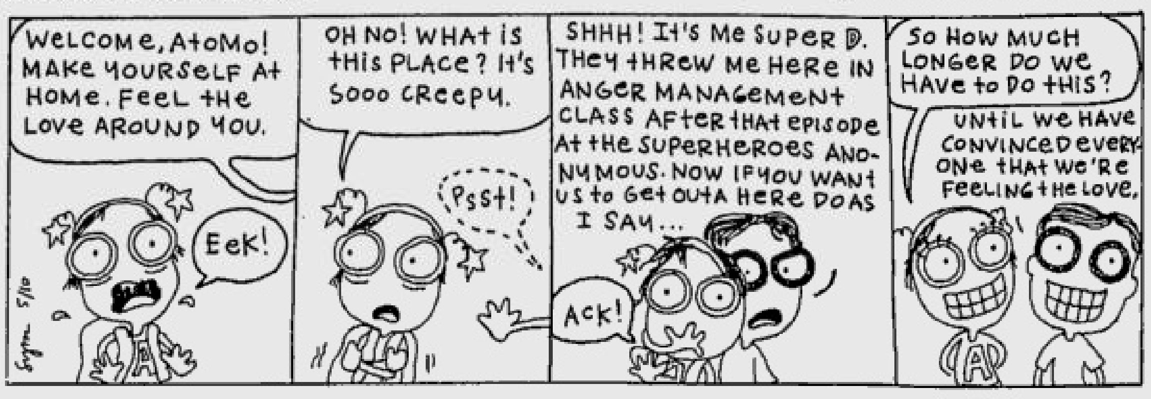
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


BOY, AM I GLAD THAT OBEDIENCE TEST IS OVER.
WHAT WAS THE ANSWER TO "DESCRIBE THE CORRECT POSITION FOR HEEL?"
WALKING PARALLEL TO YOUR OWNER ON HIS LEFT SIDE.
OH, I SAID THE END OF A LOAF OF BREAD.
5/10
MIKE PETERS

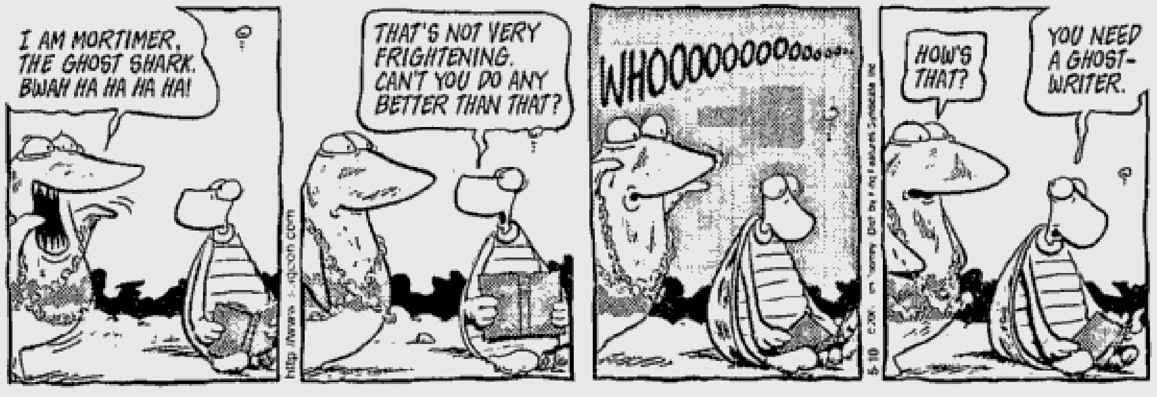
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WELCOME, ATOMO! MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME. FEEL THE LOVE AROUND YOU.
EEK!
5/10
OH NO! WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S SOOO CREEPY.
PSST!
SHHH! IT'S ME SUPER D. THEY THREW ME HERE IN ANGER MANAGEMENT CLASS AFTER THAT EPISODE AT THE SUPERHEROES ANONYMOUS. NOW IF YOU WANT US TO GET OUTA HERE DO AS I SAY...
ACK!
SO HOW MUCH LONGER DO WE HAVE TO DO THIS?
UNTIL WE HAVE CONVINCED EVERYONE THAT WE'RE FEELING THE LOVE.

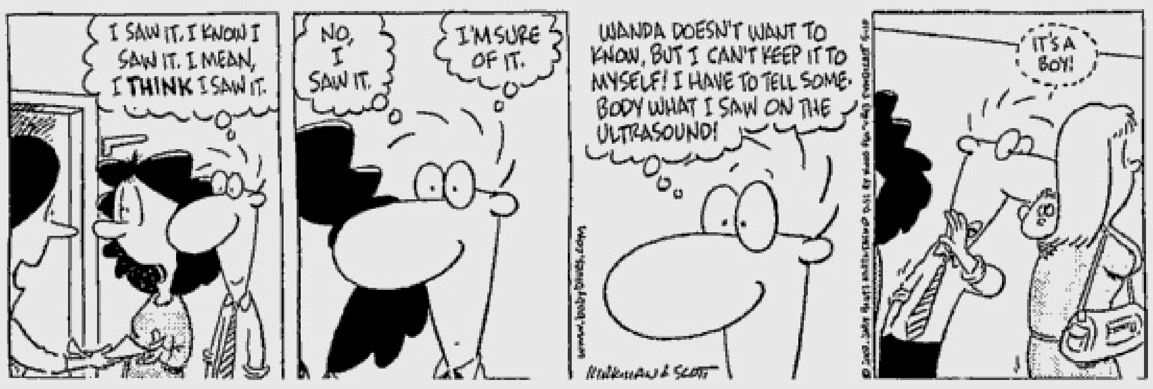
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I AM MORTIMER, THE GHOST SHARK. BWAH HA HA HA HA!
THAT'S NOT VERY FRIGHTENING. CAN'T YOU DO ANY BETTER THAN THAT?
WHOOOOOOOOOOooo...
HOW'S THAT?
YOU NEED A GHOST-WRITER.
5-10

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I SAW IT. I KNOW I SAW IT. I MEAN, I THINK I SAW IT.
NO, I SAW IT.
I'M SURE OF IT.
WANDA DOESN'T WANT TO KNOW, BUT I CAN'T KEEP IT TO MYSELF! I HAVE TO TELL SOMEBODY WHAT I SAW ON THE ULTRASOUND!
IT'S A BOY!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Linda Evangelista, Bono, Kenan Thompson

Happy Birthday: You can make money through wise investments this year. You will come into money through inheritance or family investments. Added responsibilities to older family members will develop this year. Follow your gut feelings when faced with financial decisions. Secret investigation may be necessary. Your numbers are 13, 26, 31, 35, 43, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Opportunities to advance are present. You will receive recognition for your quick reactions to any dilemma you face. You can raise your standard of living if you put in some effort.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Just because you feel sorry for someone or you believe in a humanitarian cause doesn't mean that you should go broke trying to help. Your time is a valuable commodity .

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may not agree with one of your peers today. Keep your thoughts to yourself. Let this individual fend for himself and make his own mistakes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Expand your awareness today. You should have the wherewithal to believe enough in yourself to follow your lifelong dream. Time is a'wasting so get moving.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have an unrealistic view of your financial situation. Take a second look at your motives and re-evaluate your intentions. Take advantage of existing opportunities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may want to take precautionary measures when discussing future plans with either a business or personal partner. You may be taken the wrong way if you aren't precise .

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have the opportunity to show your worth at work. Take the initiative and speak up. Your ideas will be well-received and you may just find yourself moving into a position of power.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should get involved in a humanitarian group that will bring you in contact with like-minded people. Pleasure trips will be enjoyable and informative.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may want to avoid a problem at home by working a little longer and a little harder today. You must be careful not to offend someone you live with. Matters pertaining to work will be favorable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get involved in competitive events that will bring you the stimulation you so desperately need in your life. A personal relationship with someone you met recently is likely to unfold.

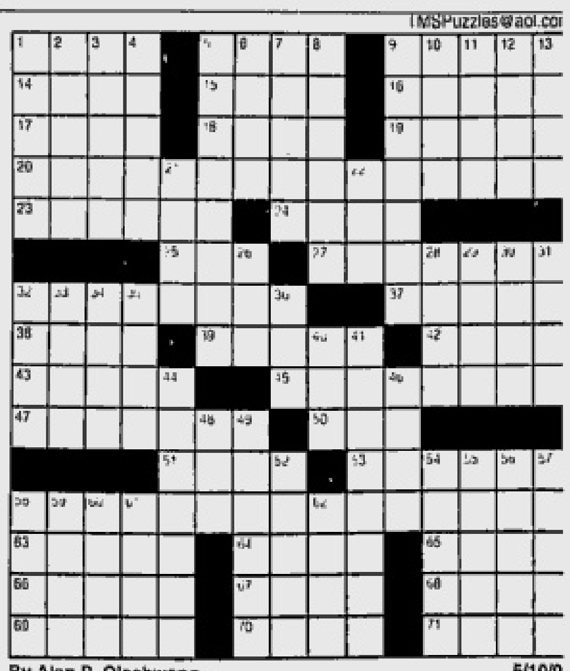
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may have to deal with an issue involving someone else's possessions or financial situation. Don't back away just because you don't know where to begin. Ask for help and do what's necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your emotions will be close to the surface today. Make plans to do the things you enjoy. You can expand your circle of friends if you get involved in unusual activities.

Birthday Baby: You will express yourself dramatically. You will not tolerate anyone curtailing your freedom. You are a free spirit, eager to follow your dreams.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

5/10/0

ACROSS
1 Kind of doctor?
5 Hankering
9 Sharp blow
14 Be down with
15 5,280 feet
16 Capital on the Red River
17 Katmandu's place
18 Anjou or Bartlett
19 Out of bed
20 Start of Henry Ford quote
23 Tied down with ropes
24 Indication
25 Actor Torn
27 Chorus girl
32 Part 2 of quote
37 Shadings
38 Suspicious of
39 Tumbler
42 Gumbo veggie
43 Davis of "Thelma & Louise"
45 Part 3 of quote
47 States strongly
50 More E than S
51 Ill-smelling
53 Kiribati's capital
58 End of quote
63 Projecting bay window
64 Ethnologist Heyerdahl
65 Edgar Allan and others
66 Presbyterian parsonage
67 Wire spiral
68 Art Deco designer
69 Fences the loot, e.g.
70 Sacred
71 Astronauts' grp.

DOWN
1 Shoulder warmer
2 Turkish official
3 Climbing plants
4 Below, in poems
5 Hindering
6 Wedding-cake layer
7 Earthy materials
8 Valiant
9 Unspecified object
10 Jumble
11 Opposing position
12 To __ a phrase
13 Scottish church
21 Sister and wife of Zeus
22 Inarticulate grunt
26 __ Pot of Cambodia
28 Castling piece
29 Jet-black
30 Roman tyrant
31 Jacob's brother
32 Hindu discipline
33 Singles
34 Shoshones
35 Dunce-cap shape
36 Snitch
40 Haggard heroine
41 Sib to sib, on the distaff side
44 Showy socks
46 Proximate
48 The Chinese "way"
49 Dirty spot
52 Brutish boor
54 Mature
55 Athenian marketplace
56 Hones
57 Perplexed
58 Robin Cook novel
59 United __ Emirates
60 Five after four
61 Take a sample
62 Irritate

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	G	S	■	A	S	E	A	■	S	P	A	W	N
O	L	L	A	■	P	U	P	S	■	P	I	X	I	E
B	E	A	T	S	O	N	E	S	B	R	A	I	N	S
O	U	R	■	O	L	D	E	■	R	I	N	S	E	S
S	T	E	R	I	L	E	■	N	O	T	I	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	L	O	W	S	O	N	E	S	T	O	P
R	O	S	I	E	■	■	A	D	Z	■	T	O	G	A
E	R	A	■	D	I	S	U	S	E	D	■	A	L	I
E	A	R	S	■	S	O	T	■	■	R	I	D	E	R
F	L	I	P	S	O	N	E	S	L	I	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	W	L	S	■	C	A	N	A	S	T	A
A	T	O	N	E	D	■	C	O	R	K	■	W	E	D
B	O	G	G	L	E	S	O	N	E	S	M	I	N	D
C	R	E	E	L	■	A	P	E	D	■	A	P	S	E
S	E	E	D	S	■	P	E	S	O	■	R	E	E	D

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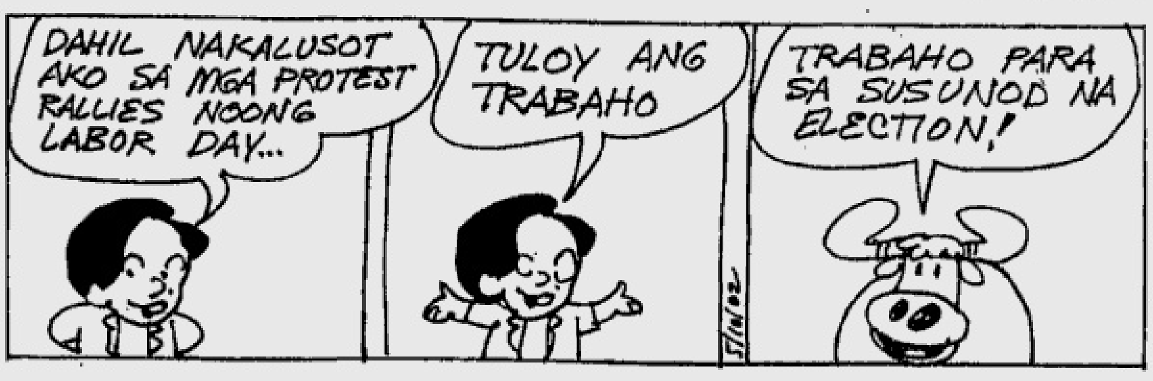
5/9/02

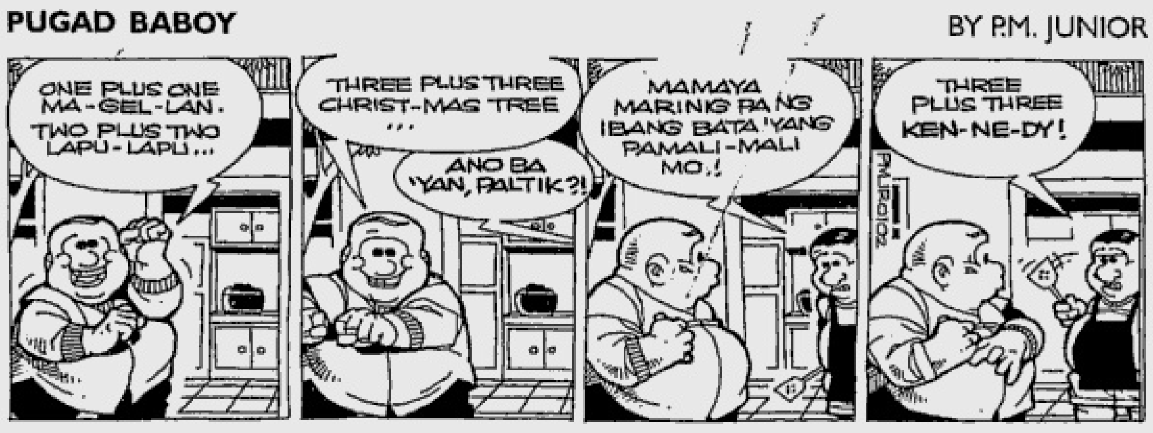
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL NAKALUSOT AKO SA MGA PROTEST RALLIES NOONG LABOR DAY...
TULOY ANG TRABAHO
5/10/02
TRABAHO PARA SA SUSUNOD NA ELECTION!

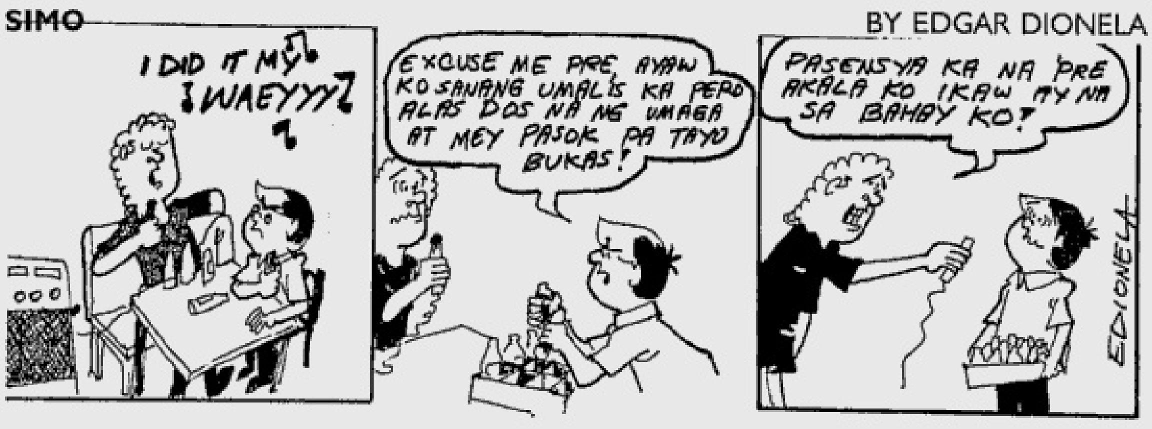
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ONE PLUS ONE MA-GEL-LAN. TWO PLUS TWO LAPU-LAPU...
THREE PLUS THREE CHRIST-MAS TREE ...
ANO BA 'YAN, PALTIK?!
MAMAYA MARINIG PA NG IBANG BATA 'YANG PAMALI-MALI MO.!
PMJR 02
THREE PLUS THREE KEN-NE-DY!

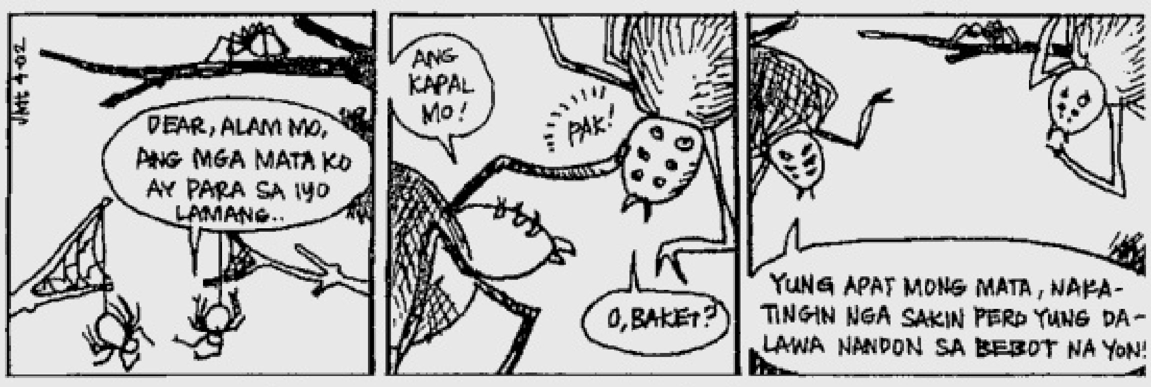
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


I DID IT MY WAEYYY
EXCUSE ME PRE AYAW KO SANANG UMALIS KA PERO ALAS DOS NA NG UMAGA AT MEY PASOK PA TAYO BUKAS!
PASENSYA KA NA PRE AKALA KO IKAW AY NA SA BAHAY KO!
EDIONELA

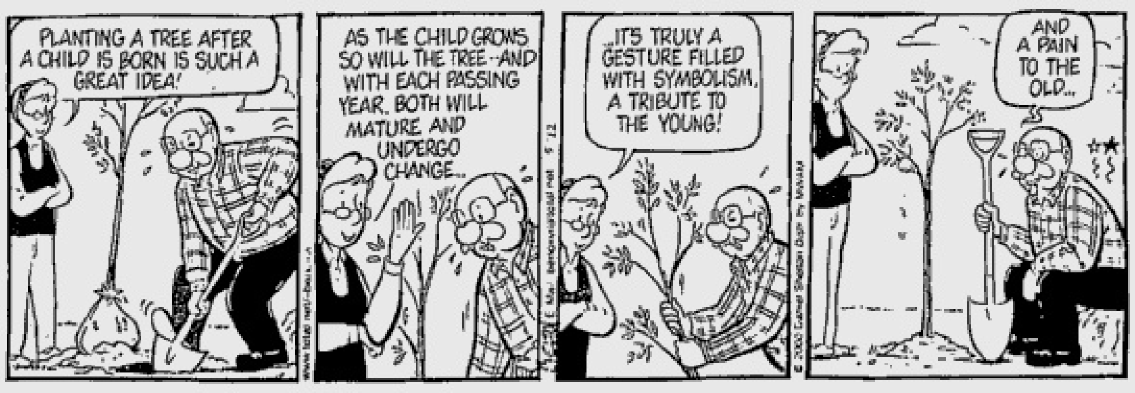
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


JMT 4-02
DEAR, ALAM MO, ANG MGA MATA KO AY PARA SA IYO LAMANG..
ANG KAPAL MO!
PAK!
O, BAKET?
YUNG APAT MONG MATA, NAKATINGIN NGA SAKIN PERO YUNG DALAWA NANDON SA BEBOT NA YON!

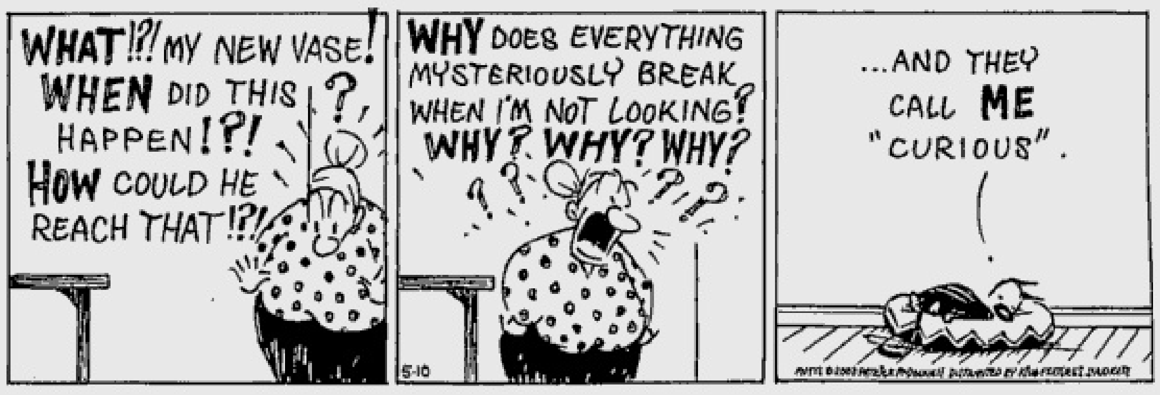
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


PLANTING A TREE AFTER A CHILD IS BORN IS SUCH A GREAT IDEA!
AS THE CHILD GROWS SO WILL THE TREE--AND WITH EACH PASSING YEAR, BOTH WILL MATURE AND UNDERGO CHANGE...
...IT'S TRULY A GESTURE FILLED WITH SYMBOLISM, A TRIBUTE TO THE YOUNG!
AND A PAIN TO THE OLD...

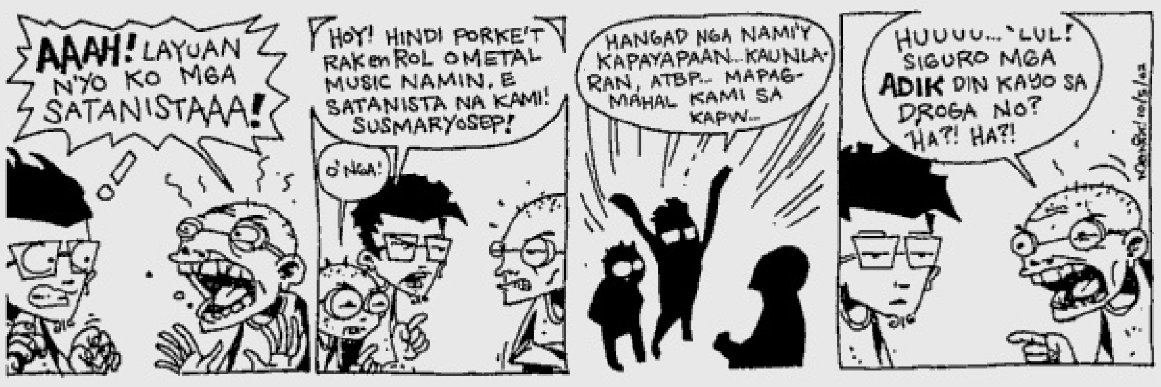
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT!?! MY NEW VASE! WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN!?! HOW COULD HE REACH THAT!?!
WHY DOES EVERYTHING MYSTERIOUSLY BREAK WHEN I'M NOT LOOKING? WHY? WHY? WHY?
5-10
...AND THEY CALL ME "CURIOUS".

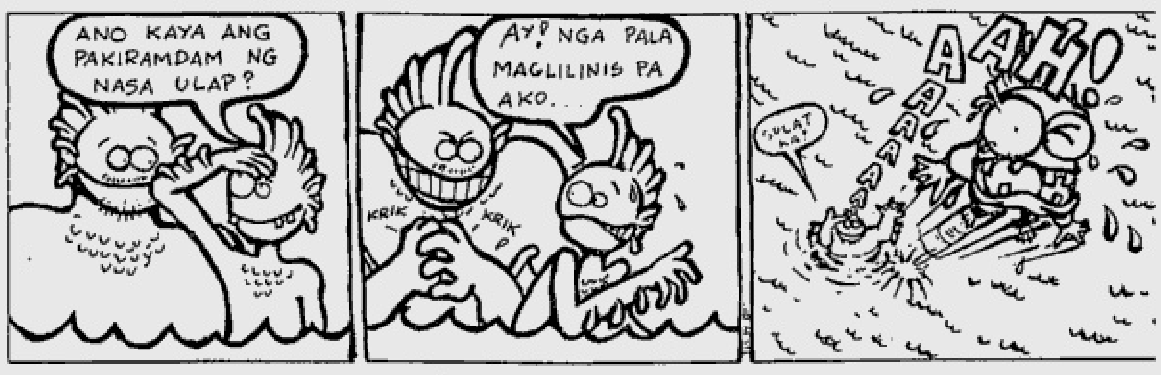
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


AAAH! LAYUAN N'YO KO MGA SATANISTAAA!
HOY! HINDI PORKE'T RAK en ROL O METAL MUSIC NAMIN, E SATANISTA NA KAMI! SUSMARYOSEP!
O NGA!
HANGAD NGA NAMI'Y KAPAYAPAAN...KAUNLARAN, ATBP... MAPAGMAHAL KAMI SA KAPW...
HUUUU...'LUL! SIGURO MGA ADIK DIN KAYO SA DROGA NO? HA?! HA?!

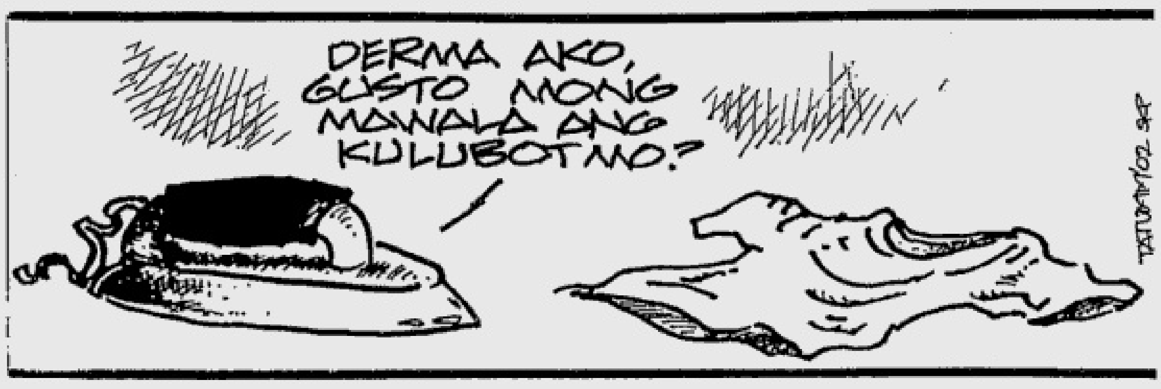
CHICHOY CHOKOY

BY IKOY RICIO

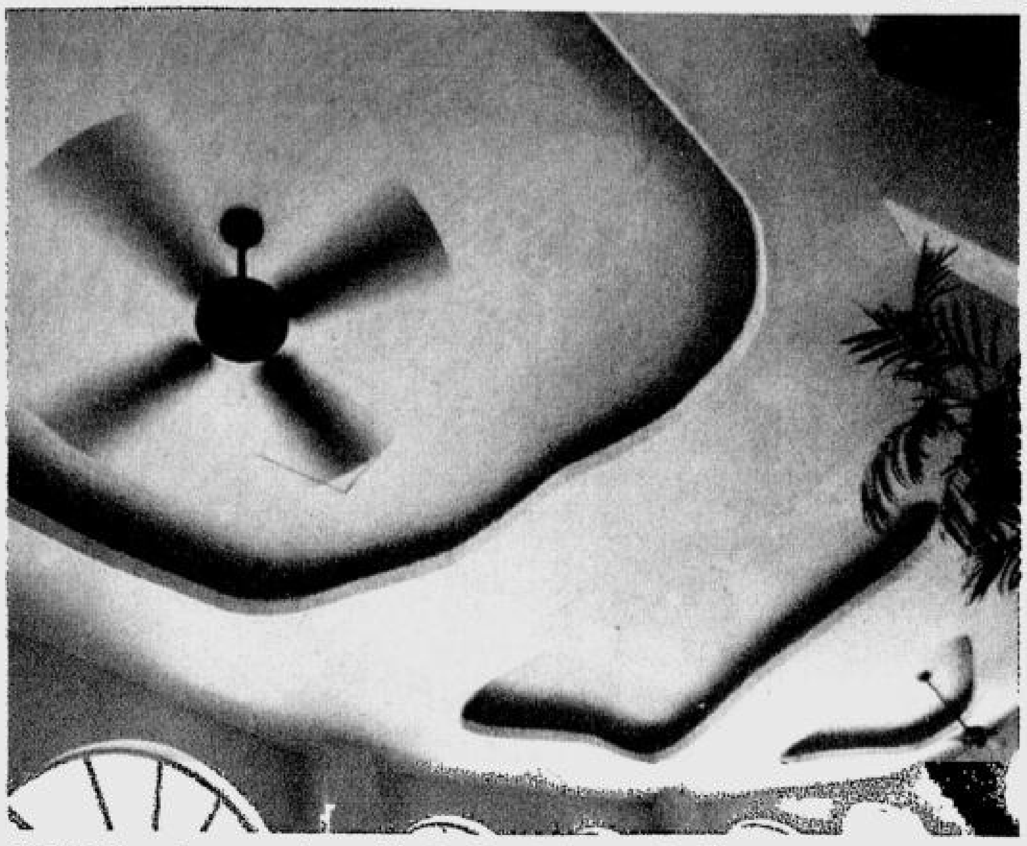

ANO KAYA ANG PAKIRAMDAM NG NASA ULAP?
AY! NGA PALA MAGLILINIS PA AKO...
KRIK
KRIK
AAH!
AAAAAAA
ULAT KA!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DERMA AKO, GUSTO MONG MAWALA ANG KULUBOT MO?
TATUM/02 PAP

A SCENE behind the Abad Santos' beachfront property features fresh water spewing out of a bamboo pole that conceals several outdoor showers.



CLOUD formations are mirrored in the Chuas' distressed ceiling.

Deconstruction with whimsy

From page F3

house, leads directly to the street. Almost everything in it comes in three—from the bedrooms and their respective bathrooms to the native décor. The annex is devoid of common areas except for a foyer downstairs and the long, winding staircase.

"Each room is nearly self-contained. I want them to experience some privacy whenever they visit," says the doting mother. "We have plenty of common areas, however, in the main house and garden with concrete tables and chairs where we share meals and swap stories."

As if the distressed wooden ledges that cap the stair's handrails aren't enough, sections of the ceiling lined with rattan add to the rustic ambience. A skylight crowns the stairwell, its ceiling adorned with dangling marine pieces made of clay. The interior's walls are painted in warm yellow.

Similar elements and more are mirrored in the main house: rattan-accented ceiling and cabinet doors, Vigan tiles for the floor and clerestory windows to allow more natural light in. In fact, windows that allow the outside in ring the circular living room almost entirely.

Lilia's love for repros by local and foreign masters is evident in both houses: a different painting from Gauguin's Polynesian phase adorn each of the son's rooms, while Amorsolo's classic Philippine countryside scenes are displayed in the living room.

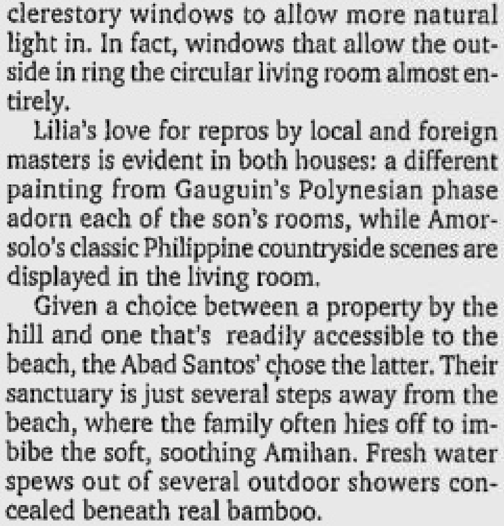
Given a choice between a property by the hill and one that's readily accessible to the beach, the Abad Santos' chose the latter. Their sanctuary is just several steps away from the beach, where the family often hies off to imbibe the soft, soothing Amihan. Fresh water spews out of several outdoor showers concealed beneath real bamboo.

"We could stay here forever if not for our commitments in Manila," says Lilia. "The lifestyle here is so restful, the environment so pristine. We don't even need to go to the clubhouse."

Still, Lilia's favorite private corner is the air-conditioned master bedroom—for reasons both clear and not readily known. A landscaped bathtub with real plants sits in a corner of their love nest, unimpeded by walls, opaque glass, curtains or any form of divider. Clear sheets of glass painted with dolphins separate the headboard from the shower stall.

"I don't want my bathroom to look like a prison cell," she says matter of factly. "My husband knows I'm a water person. Anyway, it's just him and me in the bedroom."

Mexican-Mediterranean? Deliberate deconstruction? Whatever possessed Noel and Lilia, their respective homes are among the few that manage to stand out in this remote and affluent corner of the country called Punta Fuego.



WATCH YOUR STEP. Baseboards at the Chua residence alternate and follow a particular pattern that matches the steps. Stained glass adorns the stairs' landing and illuminates the powder room behind it.

Mother's Day!

shop
eat together
play together

SM SUPERMALLS

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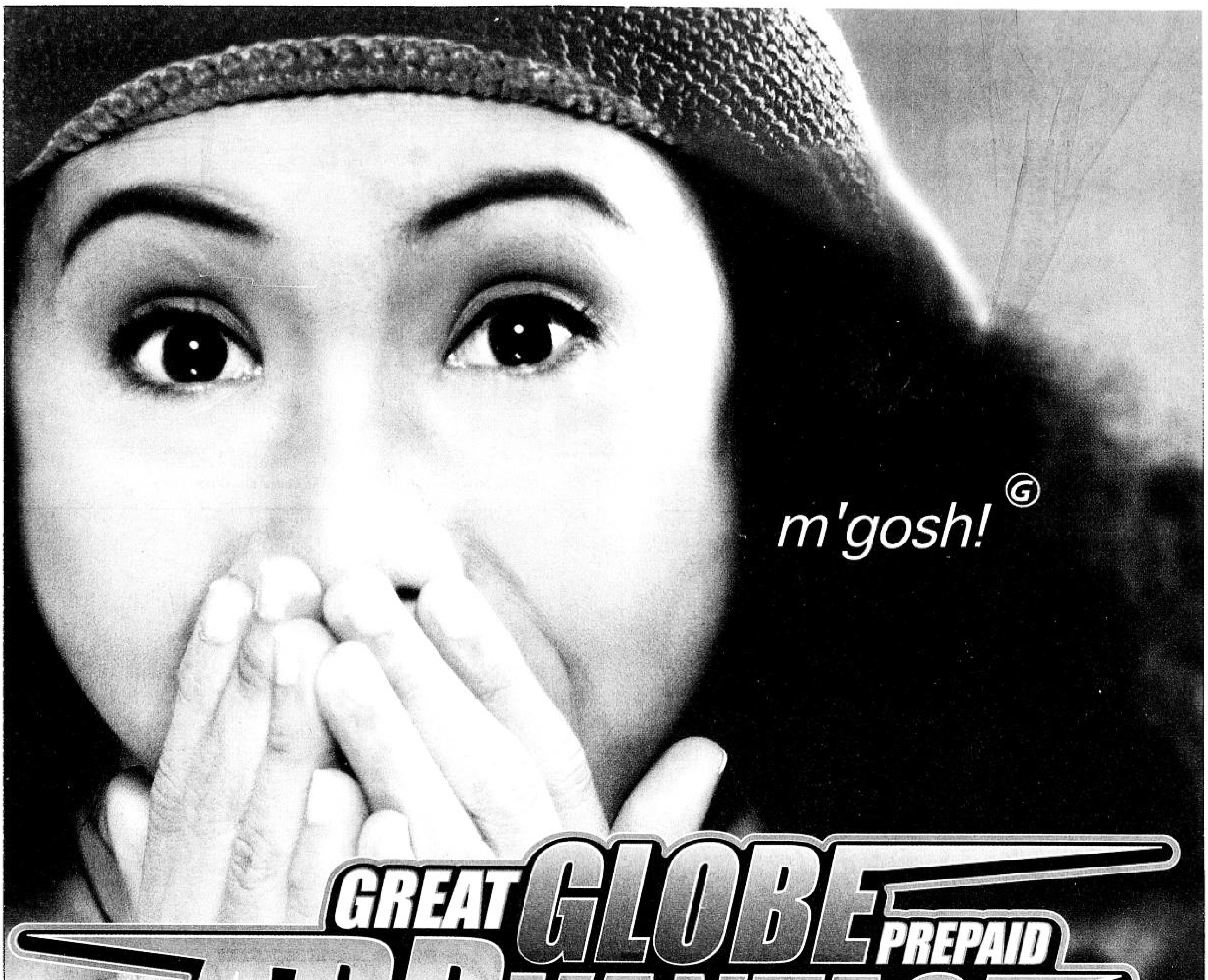

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- P100 BONUS prepaid credits when you buy a Globe prepaid SIM pack.

Look for this seal when you buy a Globe prepaid phonekit or SIM pack.

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Just activate your new Globe prepaid phonekit or SIM, make one call, and your bonus prepaid credits are sent directly to your phone! It's that easy!

MAKE YOUR CALL BETWEEN:	RECEIVE YOUR BONUS CREDITS ON:
MAY 1 - MAY 4	MAY 6
MAY 5 - MAY 11	MAY 13
MAY 12 - MAY 18	MAY 20
MAY 19 - MAY 25	MAY 27
MAY 26 - JUNE 1	JUNE 3
JUNE 2 - JUNE 8	JUNE 10
JUNE 9 - JUNE 15	JUNE 17

- To receive bonus credits for your Globe Nokia 3310 prepaid phonekit, the handset and original SIM must correspond to those originally assigned to that Globe Nokia 3310 phonekit. Make sure security seal is not broken or missing and ask for an official receipt.
- Bonus credits, however, will not extend the expiration of prepaid credits.
- A text message confirming your bonus credits will be sent to you.

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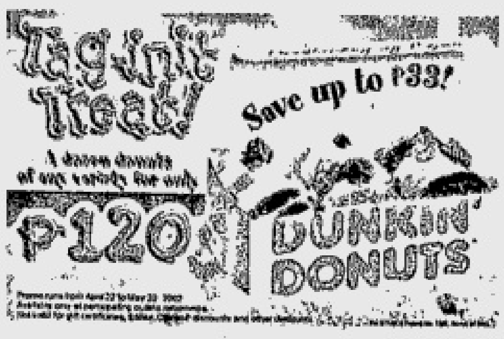
LIFESTYLE

Home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The Mediterranean on my mind

By Cathy Saldana-Nolido
Contributor
Photos by Bobot Meru

ARCHITECTURE and interiors must be in tune with climatic conditions. Here in the tropics, it is but natural to design houses that allow in the right amount of sunshine, the perfect flow of breezes. Vernacular styles and tropical traditions are best. But if there is a foreign style that can be adapted here, it's the Mediterranean style.

Culturally and historically, there are ties that bind us to the Mediterranean. Quite a lot of the style's structural elements are appropriate here considering the coastal conditions and the glare of the sun here. This style is typical of the span of the Mediterranean Sea, particularly Greek, Spanish, French and Italian styles.

This house in Alabang, south of Manila, is gracefully infused with distinct characteristics borrowed from the Mediterranean design vocabulary. The owners are business leaders who constantly travel to France and

THE / p.G2

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MIRACLE DRINK?

Renowned pharmacologist, Dr. Vicenta Mendoza Escobar tackles this question in a free symposium on herbal and alternative medicine on May 11, 2002, 2 pm, Suite 809, West Tower, Tektite Bldg. Pasig City.

The symposium, which will be done in cooperation with EMPOWER (the exclusive distributor of Moreishi herbal products) will also include free medical consultations after the program.

For more information, contact Leah Eclarino at the EMPOWER head office through 687-7028

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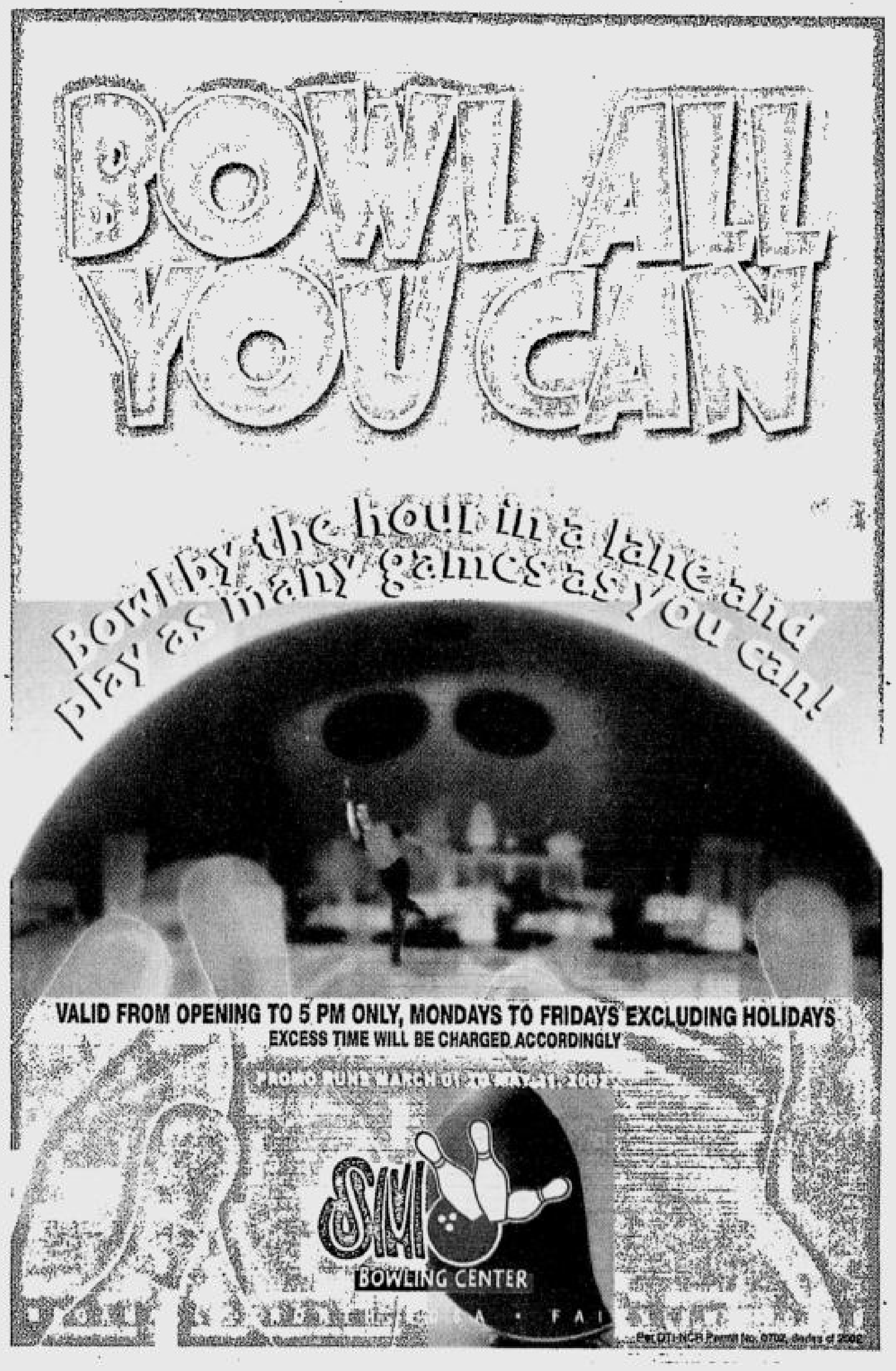
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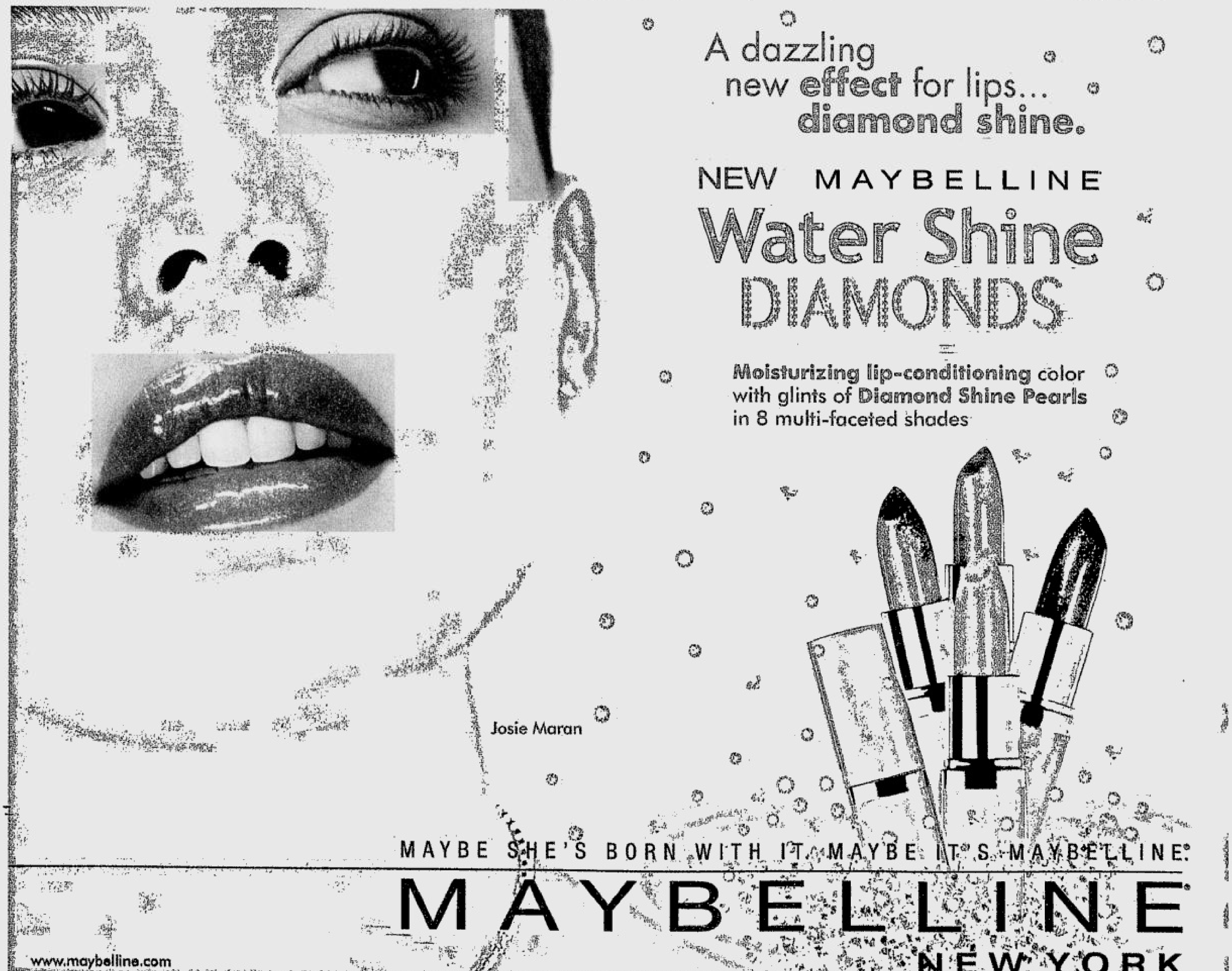
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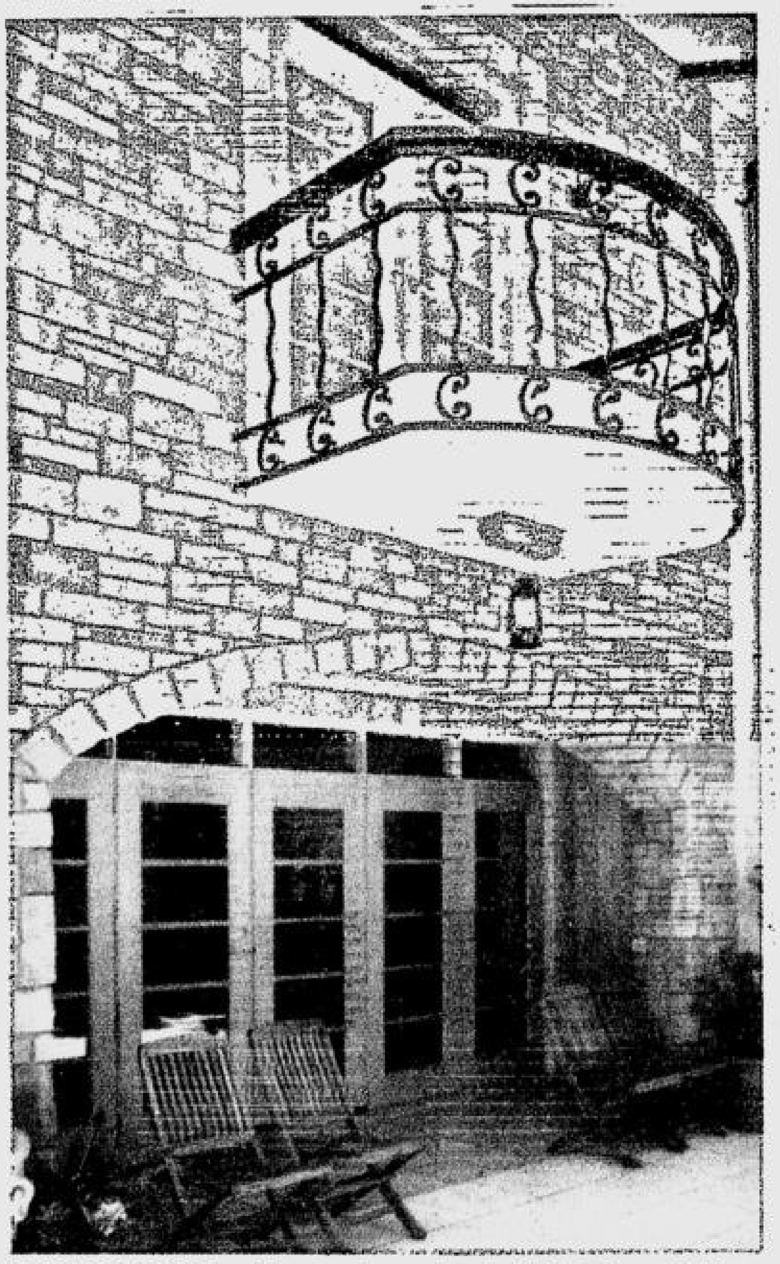
The Mediterranean on my mind

From page G1

THE MEDITERRANEAN style matched easily by locally available materials and accents.



MEDITERRANEAN architecture is completed with the balcony, jutting forth against a plane of textured concrete stucco.

FLANKING doors are lamps specially fabricated.

Italy. Lui Daya Garcia, architect and interior designer, made extensive research to blend the rustic and the casual. Save for Italian travertine and roof tiles, many of the slates, pebbles, rough-hewn wood and landscape elements were sourced from various parts of the archipelago. Frames of mirrors and birdhouses were fashioned from excess wood cut up from laid-out planks of narra and molave.

Theatrical flair

The entire house is executed with an almost theatrical flair, engaging the senses of sight, sound and touch in many corners. The result is a romantic visual display that charms because of the consistency in style rendition. The compatibility of the Mediterranean essence with local materials and building practices can be traced to more than 300 years of Spanish colonial rule. The influences can be seen in the preponderance of wrought iron work, stucco concrete plasters, carpentry with aged wood and painting finishes.

In the entrance and front courtyard, the absence of a gate heightens the dramatic posture of the tiled fountain, birdhouses and stone walkways. A "scarlet gar-

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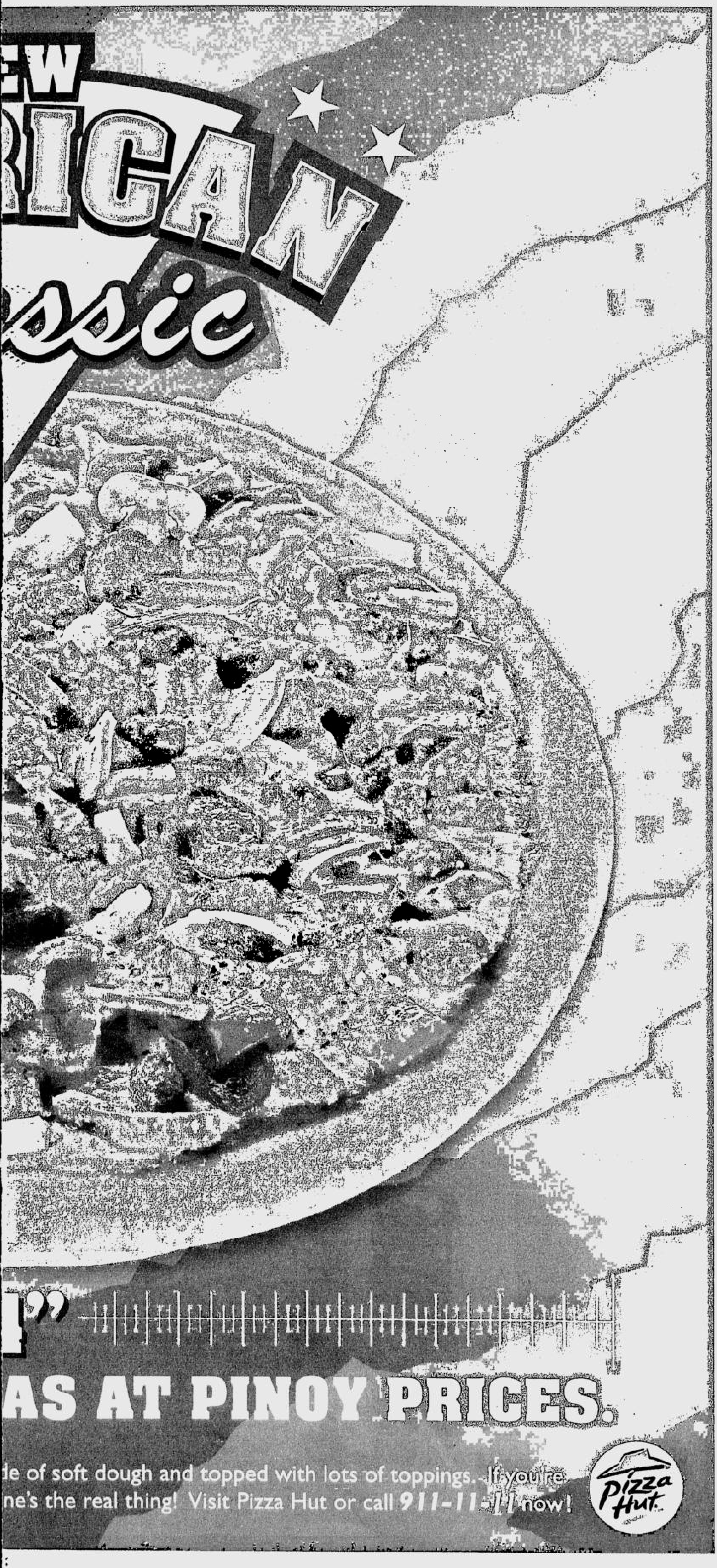
The Mediterranean sun can be quite at home in tropical Philippines

den” of native plants matches the terracotta tiles inlaid against the yellow concrete stucco walls. Birdhouses have also been transformed into doorbell elements amid a coterie of chimes. A flowering vine imported from England releases a welcoming fragrance to visitors.

Arches long recognized as an element of Mediterranean architecture integrate with rough-hewn beams and posts. Traviezas of molave are found in furniture and window bays and in the poolside at the rear of the house. Even the lamps, locally made but for export to Spain and Italy, were specially fabricated for the house.

As the gardens and poolside are also blessed with the drama of the Mediterranean coast, a marble-carved head of a lion is transformed into a waterspout. Inside, modern amenities wonderfully integrate with the details that have been fashioned by Lui's creativity. Travertine treading on the stairs, fine handiwork from wrought iron and hand-finished painting on the walls complete the scene.

Email the author at cnolido @aimonline.org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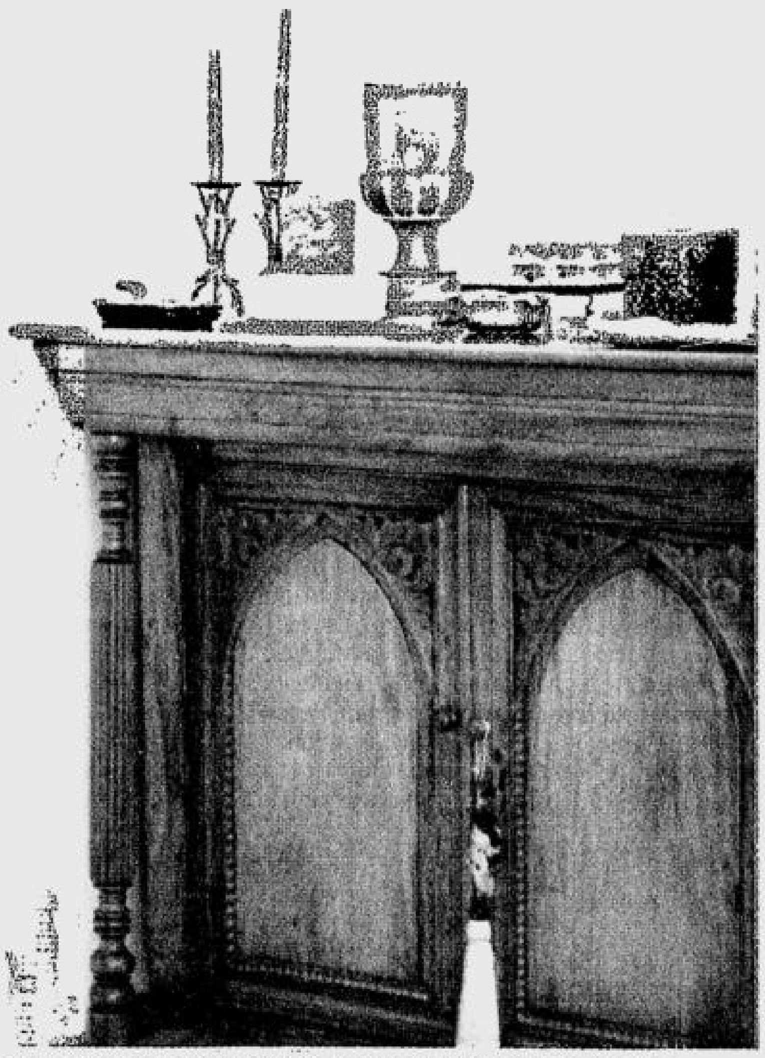
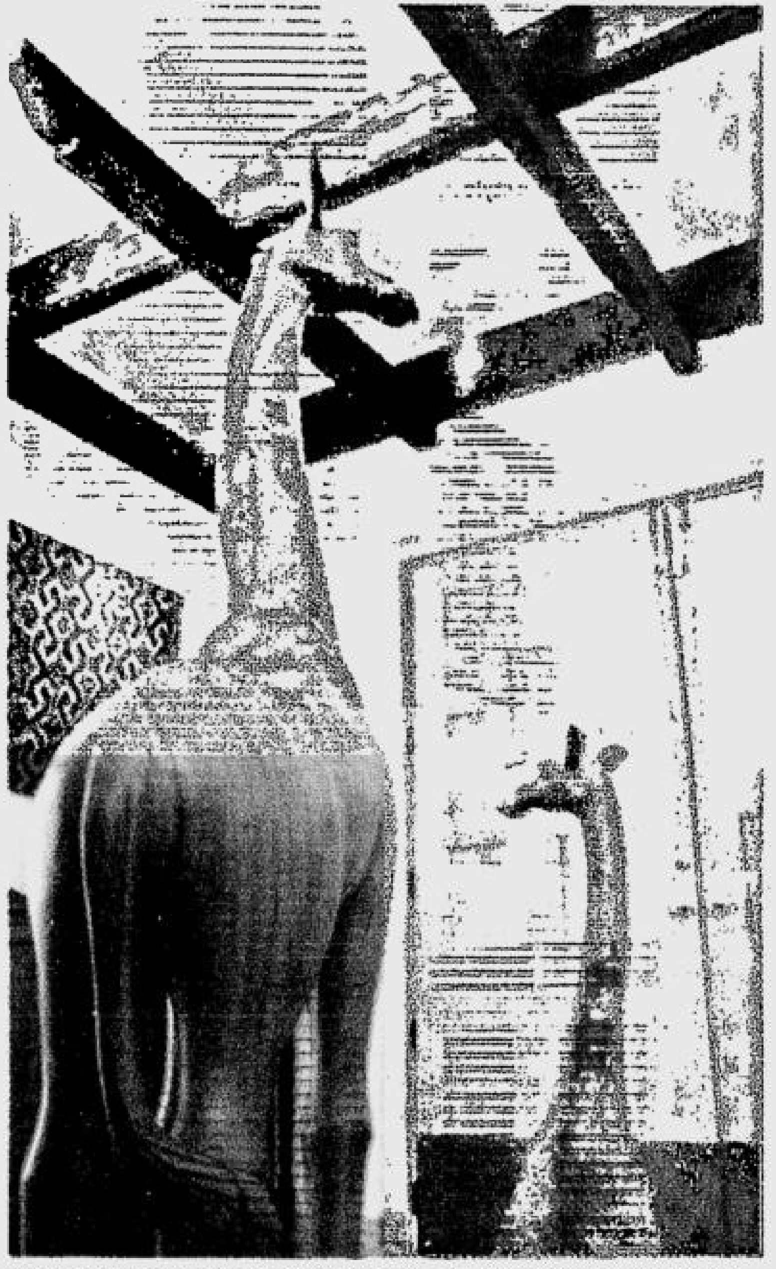
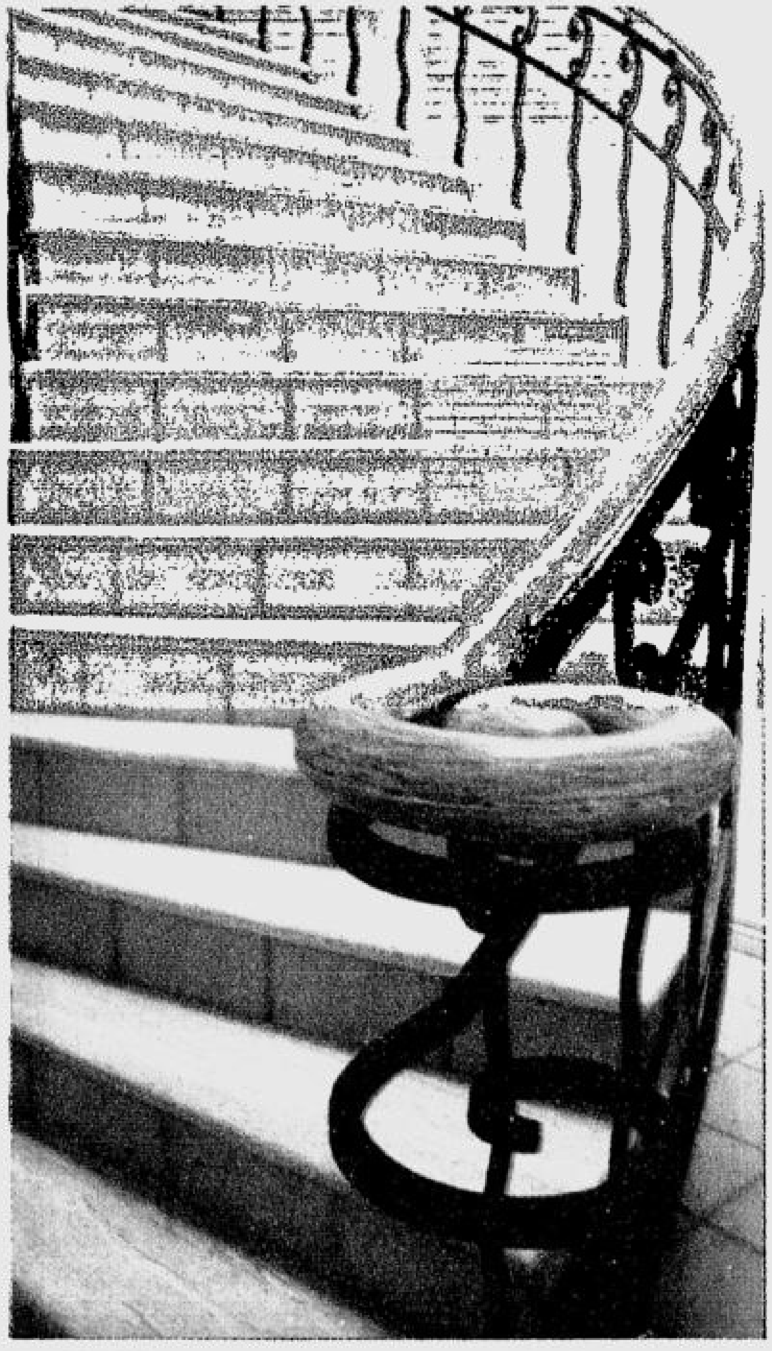


OLD Philippine colonial furniture blends with the majesty of the Mediterranean design.

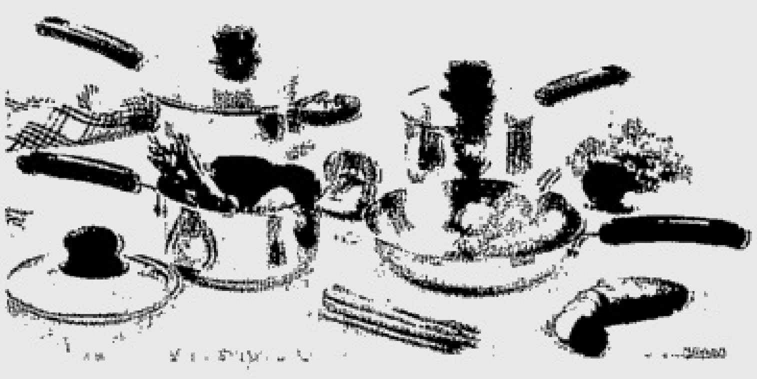


WHIMSICAL touches are provided by the sculptural figures of animals, contrasting with the rough-hewn beams on the ceiling.



TRAVERTINE stones, revered by designers for their unique texture, are found on the stairs, set against wooden planks of narra and gracefully traced by wrought iron work.

High-tech pans



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Made of the highest grade 18/10, Elements cookware will last for years and remain easy to clean throughout their lifetime. A satin interior finish makes the pans resistant to scratching, while the mirror exterior finish will brighten up any kitchen. The rims of Elements cookware is rolled and pressed, so it minimizes the accumulation of food deposits from spills.

The riveted Bakelite handles assure a cool touch and solid grip for safety.

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Forest guard needs help to meet legal fees

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

Sr. Ma.Aida Velasquez, OSB, coordinator of Lingkod Tao-Kalikasan, informs us of the case of Forest Guard Raul Zapatos of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) who has been in the National Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa for the past 13 years. He has been charged with murder and frustrated murder for trying to stop illegal loggers in Bayugan, Agusan del Sur.

Consequently, he has been unable to earn a living. His wife and seven children had to move to Cagayan de Oro City for their safety. They also find it difficult to visit him in Muntinlupa because money must be raised for the trip, further draining the family's meager resources.

Sr. Aida believes Zapatos has been unjustly put in jail and he is paying for crimes he did not commit. He was merely doing his duty to protect the forests, she says. His plight is similar to that of other forest guards who suffer for the sake of the environment. She enjoins people to help boost his spirits through letters or visits to NBP Muntinlupa in his long wait for justice, and, if possible, to provide financial assistance for his legal battle.

Sr. Aida sent us a background on the case, which is excerpted here:

On two occasions in 1989, Raul Zapatos, team leader of the DENR Strike Force, and his team apprehended a cargo truck (belonging to a relative of Bayugan's former Mayor Leonardo Cortes) carrying forest products which were being smuggled and without the required papers. During the first apprehension (September 1989), Zapatos' superior, Community Environment and Natural Resources Officer (CENRO) Victoriano Vidal allowed the release of the truck for humanitarian reasons. The mayor signed a "seizure receipt for conveyance," meaning the truck would be under his custody. In November 1989, the same truck was again apprehended with a load of flitches. The mayor again tried to recover the truck, but this time, the CENRO turned down the request.

Zapatos and the mayor had been friends before these incidents. In December 1989 and January 1990, Zapatos' team was alerted to a possible attack. One of the mayor's bodyguards accosted him and challenged him to a gunfight. Zapatos avoided this, but he worried about his safety. So he requested to be transferred to another station. Meanwhile, he instructed his team to remain vigilant and to rouse him at night if needed.

At around 8 p.m. on the night of Jan. 14, 1990, the Mayor, with a bodyguard and a group of policemen, after a drinking spree, arrived at the headquarters of the DENR Strike Force looking for Zapatos. When told that he was asleep, they riddled the headquarters with bullets and even threw grenades. Zapatos, awakened by the shots and the blasts, grabbed the rifle left by the military personnel assigned to his team, and returned fire. He later escaped and spent the night with a family nearby. The next day, on learning that the mayor had been shot, he surrendered to the Philippine Army brigade and handed over the rifle.

Police investigation resulted in the filing of cases against Zapatos for murder (for the death of Mayor Cortes) and frustrated murder (for the wounding of his bodyguard) at the Regional Trial Court Branch VII of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur. No autopsy was conducted on Mayor Cortes, and neither were bullets extracted from his body.

Lawyer Frederico Gapuz who was retained by then DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr., filed a petition for a change of trial venue, which the Supreme Court granted. The trial was transferred to Butuan City, RTC Branch V. A petition for bail was filed, Zapatos was arraigned and hearing for bail started.

Sandiganbayan rulings

Before the court could rule on the issue of bail, the Sandiganbayan filed two new cases against Zapatos and CENRO's Vidal, but charges against the latter were dropped. In September 1991, a warrant of arrest was issued by the Sandiganbayan Third Division.

But with new appointments in the Sandiganbayan, Zapatos' case was transferred from the Third to the Fourth Division which, without his or his counsel's knowledge, rendered a decision and promulgated the same on March 27, 2001 finding him guilty of murder and frustrated murder. Zapatos was brought to the NBP where he is now under maximum security serving a life sentence.

On May 7, 2001, a Petition for Review of the Decision of the Sandiganbayan was filed with the Supreme Court, but due to certain technicalities, the petition was **denied**. Gapuz then filed a Manifestation and/or Motion for Reconsideration. Finally, on Aug. 20, 2001, the Supreme Court's Third Division issued a Resolution **granting** the motion for reconsideration and setting aside an earlier resolution, thus reinstating the petition for review and requiring the parties to comment on the matter.

On March 11, 2002, the Supreme Court resolved to give due counsel to the petition and required the parties to submit their respective memoranda for consideration by the Court in deciding or resolving the petition. And that is how the case stands at present.

Letter from Zapatos

Raul Zapatos makes a personal appeal for help in a letter sent through Sr. Aida. He addresses it to those interested in his case as well as those concerned about the environment in general.

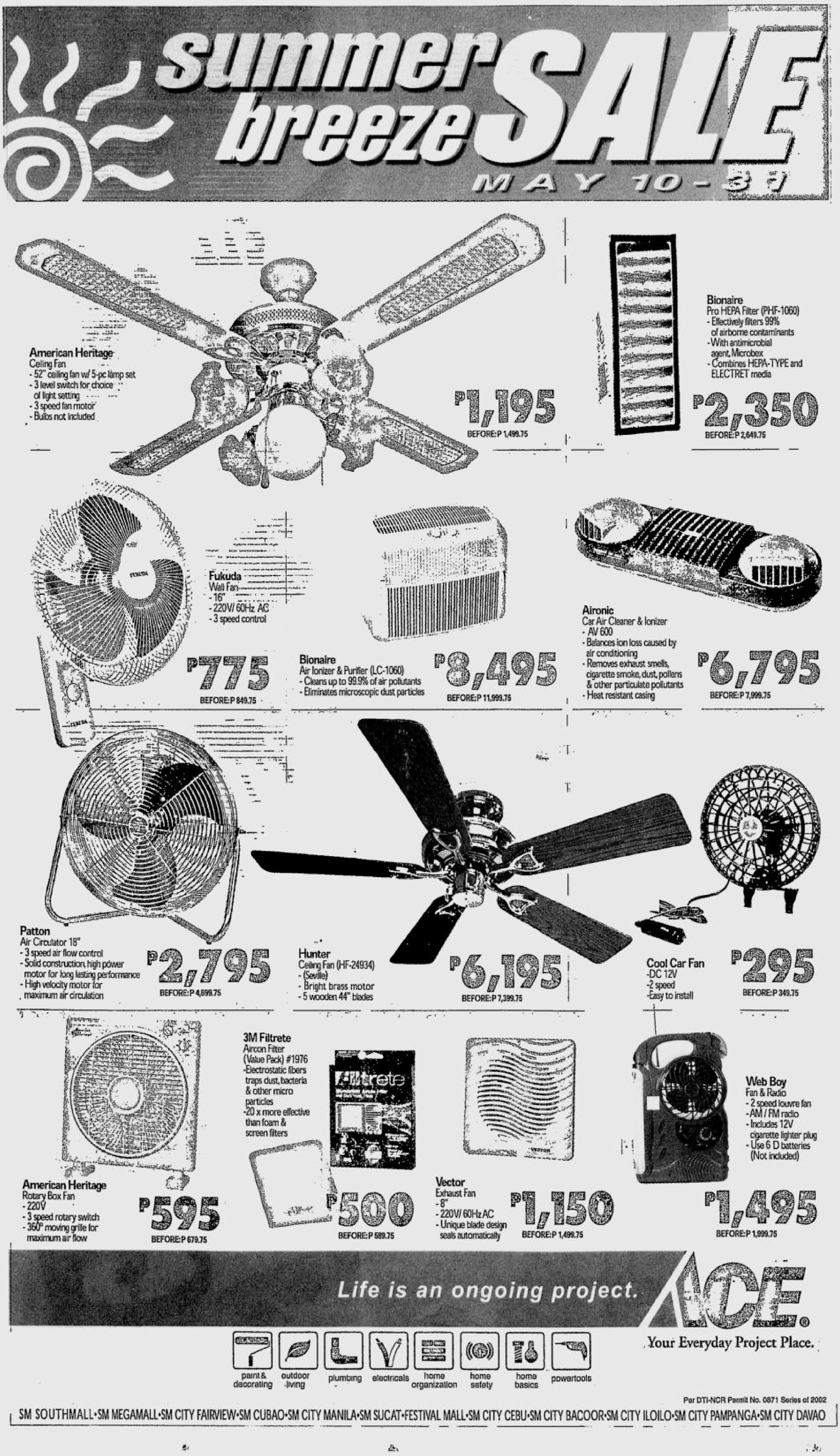
"Dear Friend, for protecting our forest and in the course of doing my duty as Team Leader of DENR Monitoring Station of Bayugan, Agusan del Sur, on January 14, 1990, I have been unjustly imprisoned, sentenced to life since March 27, 2001 by the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division. My family and I have not lived a normal life for almost 13 years now.

"The price of seeking justice for myself and for our forest has drained much of our small family resources intended for the basic needs and education of my seven children. My family and I have suffered much.

"But my trust and hope are in the Lord – the source of truth and justice.

"The Supreme Court will soon review my case. Please pray that the review will be speedy and just. I will be grateful also for whatever support you may extend to me and my family."

As Sr. Aida asks: Why should we be concerned about Zapatos' imprisonment? The answer is because justice for him is justice for our forests.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